LIFESTYLE / C1

Sunday Sizzlers: What's cool, what's crass, what's good, bad, what's some kind of wonderful and what's not?

SUNDAY MAGAZINE

Gospel of Beauty, according to pulchritude guru Vicky Belo who talks about glorifying it, making it available to anyone who wants it.

ENTERTAINMENT / E4

Who are seated with whom and where among the 1,000 guests at the Golden Globes Awards? All eyes will be on Brad and Angelina who got the No. 1 table. But why? Watch it on Jan. 16.

GLOBAL PINOY / A20

A Muslim engineer-OFW, envisioning a nation without shame, returns to his hometown of Patikul, Sulu, to build low-cost houses and rebuild lives and his community.

Speaking 2 languages helps delay dementia

OTTAWA, CANADA—Speaking two languages can delay forgetting that you speak two languages.

People who are fully bilingual and speak both languages every

SPEAKING AS

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER Sunday

BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Sunday, January 14, 2007 44 sections / Vol. 22 / No. 37 P18 www.inquirer.net

Leviste had 'love-hate' relationship with victim

By Jocelyn R. Uy

THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN FORMER BATANGAS Gov. Tony Leviste and his administrative officer whom he admitted to shooting dead on Friday was, according to a daughter of the slain man, "like a married couple who fight then make up."

Dina Sanchez, daughter of Rafael de los Mas. III, yesterday told the Inquirer that the family

UPDATE AA

Asean inks terror pact

'NEATH SHELTERING PALMS, the summit hall at the Mactan Shangri-La is superimposed as the background of this photo illustration of the heads of state led by President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo posing for a souvenir shot of the 12th Asean Summit. From left, Brunei's Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah, Cambodia's Hun Sen, Indonesia's President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, Laos's Bounnang Bouphavanh, Malaysia's Prime Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, Singapore's Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong, Burma's (Myanmar's) Lt. Gen. Soe Win, Thailand's Prime Minister Surayud Chulanont and Vietnam's Prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dung.

It may be used as basis to extradite suspects

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr. and Volt Contreras

SOUTHEAST ASIAN leaders yesterday signed the first legally binding Convention on Counterterrorism that would make it easier to prosecute and extradite terror suspects. *(See key points on Page A5.)*

At its 12th annual summit, the 10 leaders of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations also agreed to discuss a plan to form a more cohesive, rules-based organization similar to the European Union that is able to sanction and even expel members that did not follow its policies.

President Macapagal-Arroyo, in her keynote address at the Mactan Summit Hall, set the tone of the gathering, declaring that "Asean is committed to expanding its trade forum to become the largest in the world." The leaders have planned to accelerate moves to form the Asean Economic Community by 2015.

"The unequivocal commitment of regional leaders to peace, stability and economic prosperity for their peoples will continue to mark a caring and sharing regional community willing through a challenging sea," the President said.

The Asean Convention on Counterterrorism—one of five agreements signed yesterday—was the first to

ASEAN A11

WHAT'S INSIDE

WANTED FOR KILLING of leftists in her home country, Spain arrests widow of Juan Peron and former president of Argentina, Isabel Peron, now 75.

WORLD / A21

Isagani Cruz: The potencia on the custody of US Marine Daniel Smith has been reduced to an academic lesson on how to interpret the law correctly but without antagonizing the Palace and the US Embassy.

OPINION / A12

No price tag for Cebu gains in summit

By Roanel W. Dumiaga

CEBU CITY—THE ECONOMIC BENEFIT OF Cebu province's hosting of the 12th Association of Southeast Asian Nations Summit is "immeasurable" compared to Malacañang's estimate of P1.2 billion, according to a local business leader.

Foreign Secretary Alberto G. Romulo on Friday said the influx of domestic and foreign delegates during the summit was expected to raise that amount, in additional sales to local businesses.

But Francis O. Monera, president of the Cebu Chamber of Commerce and Industry, said in an interview that was just for the short-term.

"Of course, we do promote the province as an investment location and tourist destination with or without the summit," Monera said.

In a statement, Romulo said the number of flights at the Mactan-Cebu International Airport had increased by about 6 percent after local firms increased operations while the number of passengers passing through the airport went up by 14 percent.

Romulo added that in the runup to the Asean summit season, visitor arrivals in Ce-

NO PRICE A6

MJ accused Perez of plunder in '02 affidavit

By Norman Bordadora

WHY IS MARK JIMENEZ SATISfied with the Ombudsman's findings recommending bailable charges of extortion and graft against ex-Justice Secretary Hernando Perez when he actually charged the latter with plunder before the antigraft agency in 2002?

Contrary to Jimenez's recent statements to reporters that he had charged Perez only with extortion and graft, a signed copy of his complaint-affidavit submitted to the Ombudsman showed that he had asked that the then justice secretary be primarily charged with plunder, a nonbailable of-

PLAGUED A6

"SAILING THROUGH CHALLENGING SEA," in the words of President Arroyo from her keynote address at the opening of the 12th Asean Summit on Saturday, refers to the 10 heads of state's commitment to a sharing, caring regional community. The view of boats, which bear the flags of the Asean member nations and their Asian dialogue partners, is seen from the summit hall on the grounds of the Mactan Shangri-La.

Defensor sounds silly, says Erap prosecutor

By Norman Bordadora and Armand Nocum

CHIEF OF STAFF MICHAEL DEfensor was yesterday advised to stop using the issue of a possible release for deposed President Joseph Estrada for his political ends.

Special Prosecutor Dennis Villa-Ignacio said there was no way Estrada can be released on recognizance, as Defensor has been urging.

"That's a common problem among non-lawyers who talk on purely legal issues. They end up looking silly," he said.

Legal issues should be better left to the judiciary, he said.

Villa-Ignacio said the Sandiganbayan special division which is trying the disgraced leader has long denied Estrada's motion for bail.

The defense panel itself has withdrawn its motion for reconsi-

SOMEWHERE A3

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
SUNDAY, JANUARY 14, 2007

WEATHER FORECAST

Second FRONTPAGE

Raps filed vs JI, MILF leaders in blasts

By Charlie Saluza and Aquiles Zorilo
Inquirer Mindanao

COTABATO CITY—POLICE OFFICIALS OF CENtral Mindanao have filed murder charges against an alleged local operative of the Jemaah Islamiyah (JI) and two Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) commanders in connection with the two bombings here that left one person dead and eight others wounded.

Supt. Pantaleon Alvarez, Cotabato City police chief, said those charged were Fatek Tomana, an alleged JI operative, and Said Pakiladtes and Saoud Ombra Kato, all ranking MILF rebel commanders operating in Central Mindanao.

"These are the personalities that came out of our investigation," Alvarez said.

But Hja Kilinda, MILF spokesperson, said the information gathered by the police against Pakiladtes and Kato was "tainted by politics."

He said the two rebel leaders, known to be nonviolent political persons of a powerful clan in Maguindanao, "have been politically harassed."

Adap said the MILF could help Pakiladtes and Kato prove their innocence by allowing them to stand trial. He said the MILF could turn over the two accused rebel leaders to police authorities.

Under arrangements signed by the government and the MILF in connection with the cease-fire, the rebel group is bound to help the administration in its campaign against terrorism and criminal syndicates.

Kilinda said the MILF was doing its own investigation.

In Cotabato Justice City, city police director Senior Supt. Alfredo Tamayo, said that Indonesian Nicolas Kemarin, 35, was tricked by spies, posing following Wednesday's blast in the city that killed six people and wounded 36 others.

Tamayo says disputed reports that Kemarin had been arrested. "We don't consider him a suspect yet. He was not arrested, he was just invited for questioning," Tamayo said.

But he added that the police had received information that Kemarin, who was taken from his house in Cotabato City village around 11 p.m. Friday, had links to Jemaah cadre Dulmatin.

Another was one of the principal suspects in the December 2004 public market explosion in General Santos City which killed 17 people and injured 80 others.

Kemarin, Tamayo said, was also a suspect in a bomb attack targeted by the JI in Surabaya, Indonesia.

He said officials from the Indonesian consulate in Davao City would be coming over to see Kemarin for questioning.

The police crime laboratory in Central Mindanao has discovered that the explosives used in Wednesday's attack in General Santos were packed into a water pump valve, which was loaded with ball bearings, nails and other metal fragments. These were set off using a cell phone as a trigger device.

Chief Supt. Geronimo Tavira, Central Mindanao police chief, said the bomb used in the General Santos blast differed from those used in the Cotabato City and the Kidapawan City bombings.

He said in the Cotabato City explosions, the bomb was fashioned out of an 81-millimeter mortar while a grenade was used in the Kidapawan explosion.

Tavira said the findings made it difficult for the police to conclude that the attacks were carried out by single group. With a report from Allen Patrick Estrella, Inquirer Mindanao

Barangay captains' chief shot dead in Isabela

By Villamor Visaya Jr.
Inquirer Northern Luzon

ILAGAN, ISABELA—THE presidente of the Association of Barangay Captains in Sagpilan town was shot dead by a gunman on Friday night.

Chief Insp. Antonio Wasid-Sacdalan, chief of the Isabela police's investigation and intelligence division, said Randy Dino Pascual, 42, sustained bullet wounds in the head and body and died while being taken to the Isabela Provincial Hospital in Ilagan. The suspect now, about 28 has from where he was shot, at about 6:30 p.m.

Marcelino said the attack on Pascual, barangay captain of Sumile in Sagpilan, took place more than a year after he survived an ambush in July 2005.

At close range

Police said Pascual was walking toward his car after leaving the family-owned Mc Video Rental Store when the suspect, who was armed with .45-cal. handgun, approached and shot him at close range.

On July 3, 2005, Pascual and his brother, Ferdie, were ambushed by gunmen in Barangay Sinsat in Sagpilan. The brother was killed in that attack.

Ombudsman to sack 'Peewee,' other Pasay execs, Gov. Tupas

By Norman Bordadora

A HIGH-RANKING OFFICIAL OF the Department of Interior and Local Government yesterday confirmed that the Ombudsman had ordered the department to issue Isabela Gov. Grace Padaca as well as suspended Pasay City Mayor Wenceslao Trinidad and the city's nine other suspended elected officials but they had been dismissed from the service following separate decisions in their cases.

The source, who declined to be named because the case and the DILG received final papers to be served on the local officials, said the Ombudsman had also directed the DILG to inform Jaen, Nueva Ecija, Mayor Presentacion Esquivel that he also had been sacked.

"We've received the orders from the Ombudsmans to dismiss the mayors of Jaen, Nueva Ecija, Former (Trinidad), [Pasay] Vice Mayor Tony Calixto and the eight suspended councilors and Ned Tupas sir (Isabela," the official told the Inquirer.

Not under election ban

"This is not covered by the election ban on convictions of elected officials because these are orders to dismiss. These are already sanctions, not protection, not suspension, to keep them from influencing the investigation of the cases against them," the official added.

Suspend Batangas gov

The source also said that Ilagan chair an hour before the close of office hours on Friday the DILG received from the Ombudsman an order to suspend Batangas Gov. Armando Sanchez. (See related story in Section 1B of the Inquirer, Page A13)

"That ban is to be studied by our legal departments if it can still be implemented in light of the election ban on sanctions on elected officials," the official said.

TRINIDAD

The Omnibus Election Code prohibits the dismissal or suspension of officials during the election period. The election period officially started today and will end on June 13.

The officials to be dismissed, the source said, would be in Masbate and Oriental Mindoro because of their connection with the assassination of Ombudsman Ifurs were officially released on June 11 and 12.

The Ombudsman ordered the DILG on Jan. 12 to suspend Pasadigan for six months without pay, after he was found liable for simple misconduct in connection with an administrative complaint accusing him of falsifying the payroll of casual employees of the Sangguniang Bayan.

Under investigation

Evangelista was placed under preventive suspension by the Ombudsman. He is under investigation for dishonesty and misconduct in connection with his alleged unauthorized use of the Special Education Fund for his municipality.

Villegas was found guilty of misconduct by the Ombudsman for the illegal dismissal of six municipal employees, which carries a penalty of suspension from office for a period of six months and one day without pay.

Criminal charges

Criminal charges were also levied against Tupas.

Interior Secretary Ronaldo Puno on Friday also ordered the immediate implementation of preventive suspension orders slapped by the Ombudsman on Mayor Joel Pantaleon of Mansalay, Oriental Mindoro; Ricardo Evangelista of Agoncillo, Batangas, and Zenaida Villegas of Subic, Zambales, for offenses ranging from illegal dismissals to misclassified use of public funds.

In separate directives, Puno also ordered the DILG regional and provincial directors concerned to carry out the suspension of these local chief executives, in compliance with the

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Angara calls for signing of 'January Covenant' for honest, peaceful May polls

By Cynthia D. Balana, Christian V. Esguerra and Norman Bordadora

SEN. EDGARDO ANGARA YESTERDAY called for the signing of a "January Covenant" by the major political parties to ensure clean and peaceful national and local elections in May.

"Candidates seeking public office and parties vying for electoral primacy are key elements of the electoral process. But one and above this is the need to make sure that the May 2007 elections are clean, fraud-free and unmarred," Angara said.

The covenant was necessary he explained, stressing that this year's elections "may be the last window of opportunity left for democracy's survival."

Any taint on the election results, he added, might only worsen previous doubts about the sanctity of the electoral process and the conduct of previous electoral exercises.

"A widespread public impression that the results of the May 2007 elections were less than honest and beyond question would have grievous consequences and I doubt if our fragile democratic superstructure would be able to withstand the tensions," Angara said.

The political community should realize that there might not be another election after the May 2007 elections if massive fraud was associated with its results, he said, adding: "Democracy will not survive another election debacle."

Angara said that his party, the Lakas ng Kristianlakang Pilipino (CMP), would draft the proposed covenant in consultation with other major political parties.

Also on electoral reforms, Senate President Manny Villar, president of the Nacionalista Party, said the Senate will not block pending legislation despite the last ban for and other senators are quite reelective.

Congress will resume in session on Jan. 22.

About 16 Senate senators are now awaiting President Macapagal-Arroyo's signature. There are Senate bills 1987 prescribing a third term for the office of the Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces; SB 1288 creating the rank of Fire Chief Master Sergeant and Fire Master Chief Petty Officer ranks in the enlisted ranks of the Armed Forces; SB 1967 amending RA 6963 to redefine the term "Aeronaut"; SB 2026 transferring the use of viaducts in the transport sector; SB 2233 amending the Automated Election System; and SB 2322 defining Sandbar fishing and providing for regulations on the use of Sandbar fishing boats.

Cubaron Bishop Deogracias Iñiguez, meanwhile, said voters should consider the positions of candidates in the failed impeachment of Mr. Arroyo and in the unsuccessful effort to revive the 1987 Constitution.

"Voters should take a look at their own stands on these issues," he told reporters.

Iñiguez, head of the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines (CBCP) Episcopal Commission on Public Affairs, cited a position defending Ms. Arroyo against impeachment while denouncing Charter change might go against people power in the event of a failure in May.

Former Sen. Francisco Tatad yesterday threatened to pull out of the United Opposition's senatorial slate if it continues with its plan to draft candidates whose respective families already have incumbent members in the Senate.

Tatad said he was fully aware of the consequences of his resignation and remarks on one of the UNO's top bets for the Senate in this year's elections include Sen. Jose Marco Joseph Victor Ejercito, son of the UNO's avowed leader and Senatorial, deposed President Joseph Estrada.

"I don't see any justification for the exclusive slate of the United Opposition (UNO) consisting from the same family at the same time," Tatad said at the weekly Kapihan sa Sulo news forum at Greenhills.

Aside from Ejercito who, if he wins, will join his half-brother Sen. Jinggoy Estrada in the Senate, UNO also appears to have already tapped Sen. Loren Legarda for the slate. Legarda is the only Nacionalista Party (NP) senator who is not reelectionist.

Asked by reporters in Tatad, having seen members of one family in the Senate is a dangerous precedent that may deserve the restrictions.

"Whose interests will they represent? Their families or the country?" he said.

7.9 Japan quake raised tsunami alert from US to RP

TOKYO—SMALL TSUNAMI waves hit northern and eastern Japan on Saturday after a powerful 8-earthquake prompted tsunami warnings across southern and eastern Japan and Russia, as well as Alaska.

Tsunami watches were also issued for parts of the Pacific, a region that is tsunami-shocked barely two years after a deadly wave off Aceh in Indonesia killed more than 230,000 people.

The watches included the Philippines, Guam, Taiwan and Hawaii.

A 40-centimeter wave was reported at Chichijima in the Ogasawara Islands, some 1,000 kilometers south of Tokyo, and several smaller waves on Hokkaido and northern Japan, but there were no reports of injuries and no immediate reports of damage.

An official in the Philippines said they had issued a tsunami alert "level one," which warned residents on the northern and eastern coastlines to wait for further information and possible evacuation.

Japan later downgraded the tsunami warning to a "watch." It had earlier issued evacuation advisories for tens of thousands of households in the country.

The United States Geological Survey put the quake's magnitude at 7.9, a "major" tremor, and said its epicenter was 320 km east southeast of Kuril'sk, Kuril Islands, and 1,170 km northeast of Tokyo.

The same area was struck by a powerful quake in November, prompting evacuations and tsunami warnings, but in the end only small waves—the highest being 40cm—reached land.

An official in Russia's Emergencies Ministry told Reuters that the threat of a tsunami had passed.

"Half past eight, water started Moscow time (0500 GMT—6 a.m. in Manila) was the approximate time the threat of a tsunami was due to appear. That time passed, and the threat did not materialize. Everything is normal," the official said.

Japan's Meteorological Agency had said that tsunamis as high as a meter could hit parts of Hokkaido and that smaller waves were likely to hit a wide area of Pacific coastal areas from Hokkaido to Wakayama prefecture in western Japan on the country's largest main island of Honshu.

Hokkaido officials urged residents to move to higher ground, and fire trucks made the rounds of coastal areas warning about the possibility of a tsunami. There was only moderate shaking in Hokkaido and no immediate reports of injury due to the quake.

"Television footage showed one worried resident of Kushiro city, Hokkaido, carrying the coastline with binoculars from an evacuation center.

"I'm scared to (start) home," one woman, cradling a child, told Reuters.

Internet, phones down in Mindanao

CAGAYAN CITY—SOME AREAS OF MINDANAO experienced disruptions in Internet and cellphone services yesterday morning but the Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. (PLDT) said it had yet to ascertain the cause of the problem.

Clare Landeta, PLDT team leader for the Visayas and Mindanao, said Internet and cellphone services in the cities of Dumaguete in Negros Occidental and Valencia in Bukidnon bogged down starting at 10 a.m.

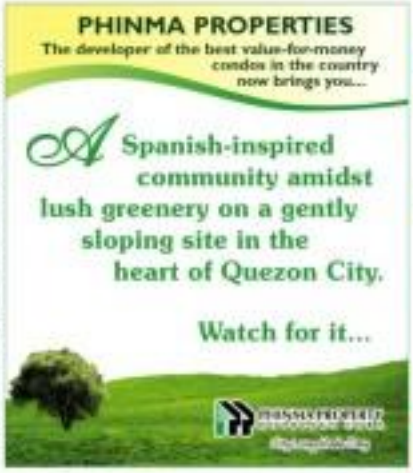
The cities of Tarlac and Cagayan, he said, also experienced intermittent connections because of the problem that might have been caused by a break in a fiber optics cable.

Landeta said because of the problem, PLDT was now using loop connections to ensure services to other areas.

But he said some areas would still experience connection problems "due to congestion."

The Internet connection in Mindanao, like in many parts of Asia, had not yet resumed to normal after a powerful earthquake in December off Taiwan damaged the fiber optic cable that links countries with the United States and beyond.

China, Hong Kong, Japan, Singapore, South Korea, Taiwan, Vietnam and other countries all experienced disruptions to their Internet services after the quake hit. Reuters, Sandra Jo Aquilor (Mindanao)



Unified import system for Asean gov'ts sought

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE PHILIPPINE-ASEAN Business Advisory Council (BAC) yesterday urged government officials to adopt a unified system of processing imports as well as to train members of other member countries in border clearance to help realize a single economy by 2015.

Launched in April 2000, Asean BAC is the official linkage of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations to provide private sector feedback and position to boost Asean's efforts toward economic integration and to identify priority areas for consideration by the region's leaders.

Asean leaders endorsed in 2003 the recommendation of economic ministers to advance the target date for an Asean Economic Community by five years from the original 2020.

Ronaldo S. Dee, one of three Filipino members of Asean BAC, said in an interview the region needed an agreement on the comprehensive mutual recognition of professionals and workers if economic integration is to be fastened.

The others were Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry

Comprehensive MRA

"A comprehensive MRA [means] recognition arrangement would do away with separate MRAs for each class of work[ers] which are considerably more time," Dee explained.

So far, the 10 members have signed MRAs on engineers and nurses, which allow professionals of one member country to practice their trade in other member countries without needing to get licenses from each government.

Signed in December 2006 and December 2006, respectively, both MRAs are seen as a big help for the Philippines, which is one of the biggest exporter of skills and talents within Southeast Asia and the rest of the world as well.

"We also need to establish the Asean Single Window as soon as possible if at this would help the smooth flow of goods, especially those related to the industries identified in priority sectors in the Asean Economic Community.

11 sectors

These are 11 sectors that include agro-based products, air travel and air transport, automotive products, electronics, fisheries, healthcare, rubber-based products, textiles and apparels, tourism and wood-based products.

The ASW aims at expediting the speedy clearance of imports through single submission of data, single data processing, and single decision-making for the release of goods.

Asean economic ministers have agreed to set up an Interagency task force comprising representatives from customs, government agencies, such as trade, health, agriculture, customs and those responsible for standards and conformance to design the ASW. The task force will work to be operational soon enough.

Further, Dee said Asean governments need to agree to recognize as local nationals those businesses that are jointly owned by Asean citizens and businesses.

Tax exemptions

The Asean BAC's proposal is also such firms should be spared from paying taxes in such a country and also to be granted with equal rights as are locally held firms.

Asked what incentive from the leaders was expected, Dee said they were likely to agree and tell the Asean BAC to formulate the terms of reference or guidelines on the Asean Co-Operation Fund.

The Asean BAC held a dialog with the leaders yesterday mainly to report on what the council has achieved in the past year. The group also held the Asean Business Investment Summit last Dec. 7.

Mactan battle reenactment highlights sideshow

LAPU-LAPU CITY—RAIN OR SHINE, THE show must go on and performers for the first of the Kapuluan Program of the Asean Summit in the Mactan Shrine here gamely put on a show, amid blowing rain and pouring rain.

Only two of the leaders' spouses showed up for the reenactment of Lapu-Lapu's victory over Magellan in Mactan—Madam Ani Ravalomanjaka, wife of Indonesian President Dr. Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, and Col. Elaine Ng Chirimvorbe Chidarawit, wife of Thai Prime Minister Gen. Surayud Chulanont.

But they were joined by the wives of various officials from the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and the secretariat in the audience.

The presentation, the "Kalinagan sa Mactan," started with a re-enactment of the fight between the native warriors led by chieftain Lapu-Lapu and Ferdinand Magellan's soldiers, complete with cannons shots and explosions and bursting of bombs.

The Asean ladies were also treated to dances and songs, such as the Pangalay, a rare ethnic dance ritual portraying the palms for help. Bayanihan, a young members's dance in celebration of the Festival Mactan, a game with coconut shells by Eastern Samar Vice Gov. Leandro R. Gelbolingo and a brief musical excerpt from the Cebuano episodic "Anak Dalitan Ko sa Langit."

Social presenter Nicole Enriquez sang a Bisaya love song, "Ako Ikaw Ikaw" (I'm Falling In Love With You), to the delight of the Indonesian First Lady.

It never ever well despite the rain. The talent performed very well. That shows you Asean ladies inform. They, like Asean, never "stay happy," said First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo, who was playing host to the spouses of the Asean heads of state and government.

Meanwhile, another summit party host, faced with the unhappy news of having to accommodate 10 presidents and prime ministers, thousands of troops and scores of military jets here starting next week is all over the place.

Cherry Mercado thought her big day was to follow when Asean arrived. Its missed moments to Jan.13 in the Shangri-La Hotel, after the venue for her wedding reception.

The bride-to-be had the plush resort in Mactan island booked a year in advance long before the original summit date was reset, and the hotel had to honor its commitment to the couple.

So the summit organizers decided to incorporate the wedding reception as an optional program that the Asean leaders might want to attend.

"Everyone has been very helpful and we decided to make the best of it," said the 30-year-old marketing manager, who is based in San Francisco.

"It's going to be different and exciting," she said.

Inevitably is. The 100 wedding guests had to provide passport numbers with their RSVPs and will be bussed from the church to the hotel along a deserted road sure to be studded with police officers wearing weapons and shades.

Mercado said all 10 leaders were invited to join the reception but she didn't lose getting enough of her hot, not even to the the presence of a Boy Scout's Salute Honorial Bolante.

"I've already found my palace," she said. Irene R. Jose Cruz, Inquirer Visayas, and Ricky

Temporary water interruption in Quezon City needed to upgrade facilities

Manila Water is currently upgrading its distribution lines and facilities to improve the distribution of water in the East Zone. We regret that we will have to temporarily interrupt water supply in portions of Quezon City starting 10:00 p.m., Monday, January 15, 2007, up to 6:00 a.m., Tuesday, January 16, due to the upgrading work on the distribution mainlines.

The following areas will be affected: Barangays Obrero, Paligsahan, Laging Handa, Sacred Heart, Kamuning, Roxas and South Triangle.

Manila Water Company advises all residents of the said areas to store enough water prior to the scheduled interruptions to avoid inconvenience.

Manila Water — For the latest update, please call our Customer Call Center Hotline at 1627.

We don't just lay pipes; we improve lives.

Correction

IN THE STORY "Laundering witness bare deportation" which appeared on Page A15 of the Jan. 12 issue, the surname of the Ayuzah organizer should have been spelled Gonzenbrun not Gotenbrun.

Readers may send their requests for correction of factual errors in articles in the Big Dish, Philippine Daily Inquirer, PCI Building, Chino Roces Avenue corner Marginal 2 Road, Makati City, fax 896-6160 or 896-6161, e-mail address: dishdaily@inquirer.com.ph.

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27 little people serenade spouses of bigwigs

By Connie E. Fernandez
Inquirer Visayas

CEBU CITY—SOME, A 11-YEAR-old Junior Chef from Cotton student, was excited.

He began cutely playing his favorite game of basketball with his friends inside the Cynergy Kids where he lives. He also dropped indulging in his favorite cold drinks.

"I'm so glad to see all small because I am going to sing before big people," said Russel to Cebuano.

He was referring to the spouses of the leaders of the Asean who are in Cebu for their annual summit.

Russel is one of the 27 members of the Children's Choir chosen to sing before the spouses during the dinner at the Malacañang in Bogtas last night and this morning at the Friendship Park inside the Sutsify Park in Barangay Talamban.

They are not ordinary children. Like Russel, some are from poor families. Others had lived full lives of special needs.

"These are children in need of special attention," said Annabelle Cuizon of the Pantao Group in Cebu or who organizes the choir in hospitals.

She explained that they come from different agencies that cater to children with special needs—Kinderly Parents Association, St. Mary Handicraft Training Center, Community, Kerun, and Youth Guidance Center and Magsaysay Children Center.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Sunday, January 14, 2007
2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: Isaiah 62:1-5

The bridegroom rejoices in his bride

for Zion's sake, I will not hold my peace,
for Jerusalem's sake I will keep still,
until her holiness shines like the dawn
and her salvation flames like a burning torch.
The nations will see your holiness
and all the kings your glory.
You will be called by a new name
which the mouth of Yahweh will reveal.
You will be a crown of glory
in the hand of Yahweh,
a royal diadem in the hand of your God.
No longer will you be named Forsaken,
no longer will your land be called
Abandoned;
but you will be called My Delight
and your land Married,
for Yahweh delights in you
and will make your heathen queen
as it passes from hand to hand,
for as a young man takes a virgin,
so will your Builder marry you,
and as a bridegroom rejoices in his bride,
so will your God rejoice in you.

2nd Reading: 1 Cor 12:4-11

One and the same Spirit

There are diversities of gifts, but the spirit is the same. There is diversity of ministries, but the Lord is the same. There is diversity of works, but the same God works in all.

The spirit reveals his presence in each one with a gift that is also a service, one is to speak with wisdom, through the Spirit, another inspired according to the same Spirit. To another is given faith, in which the same one is to another the gift of healing, and to the same Spirit. Another would minister, another is a prophet, another interprets, when many are the gift is to will speak another speaks in tongues, and will another interprets what has been said in tongues. And all of this is the work of the one and only Spirit, who gives to each and as he wishes.

Gospel: John 2:1-11

The beginning of Jesus' signs at Cana

Three days later there was a wedding at Cana in Galilee and the mother of Jesus was present. Jesus was also invited to the wedding with his disciples. When the wine was gone and the mother of Jesus said to him, "They have no wine." Jesus replied, "Woman, what concern is that to you and me? My hour has not yet come."

However his mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you."

Nearby were six stone water jars meant for the ritual washing as practiced by the Jews, each to hold 20 or 30 gallons. Jesus said to the servants, "Fill the jars with water." And they filled them to the brim. Then he said, "Now draw some out and take it to the steward." So they did.

The steward tasted the water that had become wine, without knowing where it had come, for only the servants who had drawn the water knew. So, he called the bridegroom to tell him, "Everyone serves first the best wine and when the guests have had enough, the poorer wine which is ordinary. But you have kept the best wine for now."

This miraculous sign was the first, and was performed at Cana in Galilee. In this way he revealed his glory, and his disciples believed in him.

Commentary:

The marriage is a holy event, and the people of God are God's delight. God wishes it so, bringing to celebration, glory and hope. We live at the wedding feast (Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist) and have been invited with gifts, the manifestation of the Spirit, for the common good. Jesus, the bridegroom, is the one who gives wine in abundance. This is the wedding feast—the Church, the Body of Christ, the people of God—and there is abundance there enough for everyone, even after the celebration of the presence of God among us. It is only the servants in the bridegroom who know where the wine came from—the waters of baptism—and they are the ones who first taste the wine of the Eucharist.

The kingdom of God only comes through obedience. Do whatever he tells us, listen to him, obey! Can we be placed among the disciples of Jesus? Are we servants of the bridegroom? Are we the servants who obey?

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Defensor sounds, looks silly …

From page A1

takeout for Estrada, he said.

Villa Ignacio said even lawyers in Malacañang were distancing themselves from Defensor's statements about the possibility of Estrada being released on compassionate from his Tanay residence detention.

Release on recognizance means a jailed person is freed without bail in the care of someone with high moral standing in the community.

Political ploy

Considering that Defensor is running for senator in May, his talk about Estrada being released on recognizance was just a political ploy, Villa Ignacio said.

Defensor made similar remarks about the possibility of Estrada being released from detention in 2005, coincidentally coinciding the most campy of Estrada and President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Villa Ignacio suggested that the defense panel should just file a motion for a grant of several days' detention on the grounds that Estrada has to be with his ailing 1,82-year-old mother.

"Being honest this, I personally told him that if he wants to be with his mother I will not object," the presidential said.

9 other agencies affected

But the proper motion/motion have to be filed in court.

"Let them file this appropriate motion and it is not their position," Villa Ignacio said.

He said that while the presidential might not object to a furlough for Estrada, other parties need to comment before the court can decide on the matter.

"I understand there are nine agencies that are affected whenever Erap leaves his detention," he said.

But he said a protracted pair for Estrada might also be taken to mean that the deposed president was already being released.

Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez, meanwhile is adamant that Estrada must declare and accept the legitimacy of the Arroyo presidency and stop all destabilization moves (De-votes) to secure a temporary release.

"We see, the only basis for no-destabilization is this: Mr. Estrada should make a declaration that he accepts the legitimacy of the administration of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo."

Gonzalez said Estrada has to make that statement and also "stop all the destabilization moves that he has been doing."

Gonzalez doubted Defensor

Gonzalez doubted that Defensor has the President's backing on this issue.

"I don't believe in the supposed arrangement, although I would accept it if it is the President herself who is saying that," Gonzalez told DWIZ radio reporters.

For reasons, Gonzalez said Estrada should agree that all warrants of the "Hello Garci" tapes—which allegedly showed the President trying to rig the 2004 elections—be withdrawn.

He said Estrada must also agree to having the tapes examined and hereby foreign experts to show ours and for all that they were all "doctored."

'Principal prisoner'

Estrada, from gets back to his cell, Gonzalez says, he said.

The justice secretary also he wished the fact that although he was removed from power on charges of massive graft and corruption, Estrada continues to enjoy the life of a "privileged prisoner, frustrated by months, making him rarely handed."

"He is a disgraced President. You know what happened to (20 President Richard) Nixon. He did not steal a centavo, but he's considered a disgraced President," he said.

Key points of Asean antiterror convention

CEBU CITY—Following are key points from Asean's first convention on fighting terrorism signed yesterday.

The agreement says that:

• "Terrorism cannot and should not be associated with any religion, nationality, civilization or ethnic group."

• That Asean countries are "deeply concerned over the grave danger posed by terrorism to innocent lives, international and the environment, regional and international peace and stability as well as to economic development."

• That they will cooperate to "counter, prevent and suppress terrorism in all its forms and manifestations," but in line with "non-interference in the internal affairs" of member nations.

The agreement says that would include cooperation on exchanging intelligence, enhancing law-enforcement, training and operational measures brought to parties to various international conventions.

• "The commission of terrorist Acts, including by the provision of early warning."

• "Those who finance, plan, facilitate or commit terrorist acts from using their respective territories for those purposes."

• "The financing of terrorist acts."

• "The movement of terrorists or terrorist groups by effective border control and controls on issuance of identity papers and travel documents."

The nations also agreed to:

• Jointly treat anyone taken into custody due to the agreement.

• Promote the rehabilitation and social reintegration of those who commit terrorist acts.

• Assist each other with criminal investigations.

• Extradite offenders or submit their case for prosecution in their own courts "without undue delay." AFP

Speaking 2 languages helps delay dementia

From page A6

the ten most of their lives can delay the onset of dementia by up to four years compared with those who only know one language, Canadian scientists said on Friday.

Researchers in a medical institution that conducted monitoring of the memory and other mental abilities, especially among old people, looking to confirmed behavior.

Researchers said the extra effort involved in using more than one language appeared to boost blood supply to the brain and create new connections, compared to those who have thought to help fight off dementia.

"We are pretty thrilled by the results," Professor Ellen Bialystok of Toronto's York University said in a statement.

Constant exercise

"It's the process of using … two languages, you are engaging parts of your brain, parts of your mind that are active and need that kind of constant exercise and activity and with that experience [it] stays more robust," she later told CTV television.

The leading cause of dementia among the elderly is Alzheimer's disease, which gradually destroys a person's memory. There is no known cure.

Bialystok's team focused on 184 bilingual patients with signs of dementia who attended a Toronto memory clinic between 2002 and 2005. Of the group, 91 spoke only one language while 93 were bilingual.

The researchers determined that the monolingual users of dementia symptoms in the study lingual group was 71.4 years, while the bilingual group was 75.5 years," the statement said.

"This difference remained even after considering the possible effect of cultural differences, immigration, formal education, employment and some gender or [influences] in the results," it added.

Bialystok stressed that bilingualism helped delay the start of dementia rather than preventing it altogether.

Protective effect

Psychologist Brian Craik, another member of the team, said the data showed that being fully bilingual had "a huge protective effect" against the onset of dementia but he added that the study was still a preliminary finding. The team plans more research into the beneficial side-effects of bilingualism.

The Alzheimer Society of Canada described the report as exciting and said it confirmed recent studies that showed that keeping the brain active was a good way to delay the impact of dementia.

"Anything that stems off the time when the risk factor [for dementia] overcomes the defenses is wonderful news," scientific director Jack Diamond said.

The society estimates that in 2008—the latest year for which data is available—Canada spent C$5.5 billion (P220 billion) taking care of people with Alzheimer's disease. Reuters

Leviste had 'love-hate' relationship with victim

From page A1

would pursue the case and would talk to their lawyers after he, Ben's funeral in Lobo, Batangas, on Jan. 19.

She also said the family wanted to be assured on what to do next, because of certain unexplained situations that supposedly took place after the Jan. 12 shooting.

The ex-governor and estranged husband of former Sen. Loren Legarda will remain confined at the Makati Medical Center as advised by his doctor, but policy will file homicide charges against him at the Makati prosecutor's office tomorrow.

Leviste's physician, Dr. Reyner Ta Kiuling, said in a medical bulletin issued yesterday morning that Leviste had to stay at the hospital for a few more days for adjustment of medication to treat his high blood pressure.

Second father

City police chief Supt. Gilbert Cruz said, however, that despite Leviste's condition, the filing of charges would proceed.

But he told the Inquirer that investigators were still waiting for witnesses to give their statements, and for the final report of crime and life crime specialists.

Another told the Inquirer that Leviste and her father were "like any married couple who had been together for 42 years—they had their misunderstandings and then made up."

She said that her father had been friendly loyal to Leviste and assured sending for him at the age of 26, when the latter sought the vice governorship of Batangas.

"I have known the governor all my life and he was like a second father to me. But justice has to be served," she said.

Cell phones confiscated

Another said that one of her father's cell phones that was recovered by the police at the scene of the shooting disappeared after he put it down when someone came in to watch the place.

"No one was talking, not one of the employees in the building called up any of us to inform us about [what had happened]," she said.

According to Sandoz, the bruised about the shooting in a phone call from one of Leviste's employees who was down in Batangas.

"She only heard one shout it from a distant [of Leviste-owned LPL Towers] and decided to call me up," Sandoz said, adding,

"Nobody was talking and I was told that all the employees were herded into a building many feet or least an hour, and all their cell phones were confiscated during the time that they were there."

Sandoz also said police should look into the possibility that there was another person in the room with Leviste and Ben.

"I believe it was not homicide, and the governor does not go around without a bodyguard," she said without elaborating.

24-hour guard

Leviste has been under 24-hour police surveillance be surrendered to Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay and local police at the hospital at about 3:30 p.m. the other day.

He said he had killed Dr. Ian Ilan and claimed self-defense. He was subsequently admitted for treatment of high blood pressure.

The body of Dr. Ian also was found with multiple gunshot wounds between noon and 1 p.m. Friday in Leviste's office on the ninth floor of LPL Towers on Legaspi Street in Makati City.

Two policemen were guarding Leviste's 7th-floor hospital room at the time of the forensic visit yesterday morning. Cruz said four to six more policemen were patrolling the hospital for additional security.

Cruz, who visited Leviste yesterday morning, said the latter's condition had improved but that his pressure was still weak.

Arraigned by the Inquirer for an interview with the ex-governor was not granted, with a family member—a niece, according to one of the guards—saying he was "still heavily sedated."

Motive

Case investigators PO2 Abet Rubles and PO2 Herman Pena-hang said they were still waiting for two to three witnesses, who had promised to cooperate in the investigation, to show up at the Makati police headquarters.

Pinahang said the motive for the killing had not yet been ascertained.

But a police official privy to the investigation, speaking on condition of anonymity for lack of authority to speak about the case, said it was usual for Leviste and the Jan Ilan to have arguments, mostly over financial matters.

Senate NBI inquiry

Senate Justice and Human Rights Committee chairman Sen. Panfilo Lacson said he has asked the National Bureau of Investigation to take over the inquiry.

"The family fears that the case is being railroaded," said Lacson, who attended the wake for Dr. Ian Ilan at the Evangelista Funeral Homes in Quezon City yesterday.

According to Lacson, the family was wary of the police investigators because Mayor Binay has said had connected that the case was closed.

Binay said in a press briefing hours after Leviste's surrender that "the case is closed in the sense that the case behind the killing had already surrendered to the police."

Medical history

Dr. Ta Kiuling's medical bulletin, Leviste has hypertensive cardiovascular disease, dyslipidemia (abnormal levels of fat and cholesterol in the blood), and a history of transient ischemic attacks.

On his admission to the hospital on Friday afternoon, he was afflicted with hypertensive emergency—a condition that, if left untreated, could have led to a cerebrovascular accident or stroke.

Leviste is currently taking antihistamine antihypertensive medications and sedatives.

"It is also imperative that he attend normal conditions for the moment, so as not to aggravate his hypertension," the doctor said.

Leviste has been Kuiling's patient since May 1999. With a report from Nancy C. Carvajal

MJ accused Perez of plunder in his complaint filed with Ombudsman in '02

From page A1

least that carries the maximum penalty of death.

The former Manila congressman had also said in the 225-page complaint that he had started to doubt that he would get justice under President Macapagal-Arroyo's administration.

He said that a few days after he had delivered a privilege speech in the House accusing Perez of the "million-dollar" misbehavior, being talked about in the media, the President personally "admonished" him to "submit your evidence before you are intimidated."

"From then on, I knew I would not get justice in this case. The major papers quoted me as saying, 'I'm dead meat'" he said in the complaint that appeared to have been resolved by the Ombudsman on Dec. 13, 2002, and sworn to before Assistant Ombudsman Emilio Nunez.

Jimenez was cornered in the United States not long after 12 charges of mail fraud and money laundering illegal campaign contributions to the Democratic Party.

Kissing scene

Jimenez also admitted to intimacies with Perez in documents he filed. He still enjoyed Mr. Perez's confidence despite the claims of extortion aired not only by Atienza but also by then Bulacan Rep. Willie Villarama.

"In what could be a swing engineered by the PR operatives of Secretary Perez, President Arroyo was rewired live on TV in a Malacañang function planting a kiss on [Mr.] check ... while firmly clasping his right hand as if to roll up any of us to inform us about [what had happened]," the said.

According to Sandoz, she learned about the shooting in a phone call from one of Leviste's employees who was down in Batangas.

"She only heard one shout it from a distant [of Leviste-owned LPL Towers] and decided to call me up," Sandoz said, adding,

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Leviste has been Kuiling's patient since May 1999. With a report from Nancy C. Carvajal

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HYUNDAI·KIA MOTORS

Troops keeping eye on rest of the country

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan

SECURITY FORCES ARE KEEPING AN EYE on other parts of the country in preempt further bomb attacks while the 12th Association of Southeast Asian Nations Leaders' Summit is taking place in Cebu province.

A military spokesperson said troops have taken "preventive measures" in areas that are likely targets of terrorist attacks similar to Rizal Day bomb blasts in Davao City, Makati, Cotabato and Zamboanga on Jan. 13 that left eight people dead and scores wounded.

"Our operational commanders are aware of probable scenarios, probable modus ops that may be staged by threat groups. They are aware so they are focused in terms of some

[illegible] factors are taking preventive measures," Lt. Col. Bartolome Bacarro said.

Last Jan. 5, a bomb also exploded in front of a popular shopping festival chain in Cotabato City.

Police recently filed frustrated murder charges against 11 persons including Basit Usman, a former commander of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, for the Jan. 5 bombing.

Mastermind of Jan. 13 attacks

Bacarro was quite tagged as a possible mastermind of the Jan. 13 blasts.

The intervention Embassy recently issued a travel advisory urging its citizens to stay away of the cities of Davao, General Santos, Cotabato, Zamboanga and Pagadian and the municipalities of Carmen, Isulan and Maguindanao all in Mindanao, where it advised terrorist bombings are likely to occur.

"The ground commanders would at this time have intelligence on the probable targets [of attacks], taking into account historical data as well as present data," Bacarro said.

He said no additional troops were deployed to the areas of the recent blasts.

The military was placed on the highest red alert nationwide starting Jan. 10 for the Asean Summit.

"Usually the enemy will strike you in an area where you least expect them to hit you, that's why we raised our alert level nationwide," Bacarro said.

SPECTACULAR EVENTS

INDIA
TOLERANCE, REPUBLIC DAY, MAY PARADE
at Rooftop Lawnmax Taj Mahal, Delhi, Jaipur, Jan. 24

SERBIA SRPSKA
Promotion to Seville & Europe Jan. 13

FLORA
FEST 2007
Flores Fiesta
Manila
Departure - Jan. 27

CHINESE NEW YEAR
Ho Chi Minh/Hoi An
Feb. 19

ROYAL FLORA
Via Royal Brunei
& Singapore Airlines
Manila / Bangkok / Manila

SOUTH AMERICA
RIO CARNIVAL
Rio de Janeiro, Iguazu Falls, Buenos Aires, Argentina
Departure: Feb. 17
Duration: 10 days

SAIGON CAMBODIA
Feb. 13
Manila/Saigon/Siem Reap/Manila

PILGRIMAGE
HOLY LAND - ARABIA
Departure: Jan. 21, 28, 29

HONGKONG DISNEY WORLD
Departure: Jan. 24

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Asean agrees to form joint rescue unit

CEBU CITY—TWO DAYS AFTER A SERIES of bombings rocked Mindanao, four Southeast Asian leaders have agreed to form a joint rescue unit that would respond to calamities, including disruptions of the peace, within their countries.

The leaders of Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia and the Philippines, grouped into the BIMP-East Asia Growth Area (BIMP-EAGA) sub-region, also agreed to expand subregional air linkages in a bid to bring in the investors and tourists that would spur economic growth.

President Macapagal-Arroyo, Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah, Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono and Malaysia Prime Minister Abdullah Badawi agreed to adopt these proposals after they met for the 3rd BIMP-Eaga summit yesterday on the sidelines of the Association of Southeast Asian nations' annual summit here.

According to Secretary Jesus Dureza, presidential adviser on the peace process, the leaders on the joint rescue unit idea came about because of the subregion's susceptibility to "both natural and human calamities."

"A joint rescue effort must be worked out by the BIMP-Eaga ministers and officials, as if there are calamities, man-made or natural, in any of the BIMP-Eaga area, their would be immediate reaction and assistance from the four countries," said Dureza.

He said the term "man-made calamity" included "disruption in the peace and order" although he did not refer to the series of bomb blasts on Wednesday that killed seven people and wounded dozens in the cities of General Santos, Cotabato and Zamboanga in Mindanao.

Dureza said the consensus was that there was no need for a common resource center since the four each country would save itself with the necessary resources and capacities to deal when calamity strikes, they are "immediately respond and converge."

He said the details were still being worked out by the ministers and senior officials of the four countries.

The countries' foreign and transportation secretaries and ministers signed a memorandum of understanding on expansion of air linkages under which seven major international airports would be granted fifth freedom rights.

In commercial aviation, this means a country's airline is allowed the right to carry passengers from its own country to a second country, and from that country to a third country.

These airports are Bandar Seri Begawan in Brunei Darussalam, Pontianak and Balikpapan in Kalimantan, Kota Kinabalu and Kuching in Malaysia and Davao and Zamboanga in the Philippines.

The agreement provides for the multiple designation of airlines without restrictions on frequency and capacity, and with stopover rights and code-sharing arrangements.

Dureza likened the agreement to an open-sky policy where there would be no limit to the frequency and the number of flights with-in the BIMP-Eaga region.

Once the air linkages are opened, he said it will be easier for overseas Filipino workers in Mindanao to fly out to the Middle East through the Bimp-Eaga gateway.

"It will have a ripple effect on all sectors, investors will come, tourist will come, and of the [overseas] people will increase. But it will take a little time," said Dureza. Cornie S. Bernardino, Inquirer Visayas

5 documents signed by 10 Asean leaders

FIVE DOCUMENTS WERE SIGNED BY the 10 Asean leaders in ceremonies at the Hoops La Marina yesterday.

Based on a program obtained by the Inquirer, these were:

The Asean Convention on Counter-Terrorism; Cebu Declaration Towards One Caring and Sharing Community; Cebu Declaration on the Protection of the Rights of Migrant Workers; Cebu Declaration on the Acceleration of the Establishment of an Asean Community.

These documents were signed by foreign ministers of Brunei and East Timor, namely their "Instruments of Decession" and "Instruments of Accession" to the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia.

No price tag for Cebu gains in summit

Fronsaga Ad

ted Visitors from January to September reached 1.2 million or about 11 percent higher than the number for the same period in 2005.

The number of foreign visitors who make up at least a third of the total arrivals increased 18.5 percent, he said.

Rodriguez told reporters: "We will make sure we execute advantages of the greater [public-] [illegible] from the summit so that it would translate to a sustained inflow of capital and revenues."

He added that the chamber was creating up increased promotion of the province through a five-month campaign called Cebu Business Month, which would kick off in February and culminate in June.

"The Cebu Business Month is evolving to become the business sector's own thinking on what it is to effective [illegible] of promoting Cebu in the field of information and communication technology, tourism, and small- and medium-enterprises that are export-oriented."

Export earnings

According to the Department of Trade and Industry, Cebu's export earnings have consistently risen yearly from $2.4 billion in 1999 to $4.7 billion in 2005.

Top merchandise exports include chromated, garments, electrical equipment, vehicles and machinery parts, processed foods, dried and semi-processed products, gift, toys and housewares and broken accessories.

Results/view

Major export destinations include the United States, Japan, Hong Kong, Belgium, Switzerland, China, The Netherlands, South Korea, Singapore and Thailand.

"We have talked with Ambassador Maureen Pepoy in Switzerland in support of the summit's national organizing committee and Cebu Governor Gwen Garcia on how to capitalize on summit publicity and have been supportive," Mendoza said.

The chamber president said they planned to embark on a road show to the major Asean cities to pump up ICT, tourism and export activities in Cebu.

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For more details, please contact Ms. Jasmin Nigudula and Ms. Esperanza Estanislao at 733-8142 local numbers 213 and 316.

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INSTITUTE OF JUDICIAL ADMINISTRATION
3rd Boodoo Hall, Diliman, Quezon City, Philippines 1101
Tel. No. (632) 920-55-14 local 229 and 209; Telefax No. (632) 929-71-37

MANDATORY CONTINUING LEGAL EDUCATION (MCLE) COMPLIANCE PROGRAM
ONE-WEEK COURSE
28 January – 02 February 2007

Date	Subject	MCLE Credit Units	Lecturers
28 January Monday	The Significance of the Lawyer's Oath (Legal Ethics)	Three (3) units (MCLE 3.c)	Justice Artemio L. Adiao, Jr.
	Contemporary Approaches to Legal Research & Writing (Legal Writing)	Four (4) units (1.1/2/3.3b)	Prof. Marino C. Tolentino
30 January Tuesday	Juvenile Justice and Welfare Act of 2006 and the Rule on Juveniles in Conflict with the Law (Administrative/Procedural Law)	Three (3) units (MCLE 3.c)	Atty. Nicole Loretta Adriano
	Intellectual Property Laws: Recent Developments and Procedure (Commercial/Business Law)	Three (3) units (1.1/3.4.3b)	Atty. Emma Francisco
31 January Wednesday	ADR Skills for Lawyers (Alternative Dispute Resolution)	Three (3) units (MCLE 3.c/3b)	Prof. Rowena D. V. Danes-Mendoza
	Law on Technology: Introduction to Cyber Crimes (R.A. 8792) (Special Laws)	Three (3) units (1.1/3.4.3b)	Atty. Ivan John E. Uy
	Law on Government Bidding and Procurement (Law/Proc. Law)	Three (3) units (1.1/3.1.1a)	Prof. Ramonina Fernandez
01 February Thursday	Application of Courts in Criminal Cases (MCLE Compliance Course)	Three (3) units (MCLE 3.c)	Justice Edilberto G. Sandoval
	Pre-Trial in Cases of Psychological Incapacity and Other Substantive Marriages (Pre-Trial & Case Study)	Four (4) units (1.1/3.3.3b)	Prof. Rogelio A. Vida II
02 February Friday	Ethical Considerations in the Exercise of Legal Remedies and Court Processes (Legal Ethics)	Three (3) units (MCLE 3.c)	Justice Marina L. Buzon
	Modes of Review of Judicial Records (Alternative Dispute Resolution)	Two (2) units (MCLE 3.b)	Dean Custodio O. Parlade
	International Law: Transnational Law (International Law)	Three (3) units (1.1/3.1.4d)	Prof. Merlin M. Magallona

- REGISTRATION FEE: P1,000.00/package or P750.00/session (morning session or afternoon session)
- Fee is inclusive of snacks, LUNCH, MCLE Certificate of Attendance and lecture materials.
- Schedules/lecturers are subject to change without prior notice.

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MANDATORY CONTINUING LEGAL EDUCATION (MCLE) COMPLIANCE PROGRAM
ONE-WEEK COURSE
26 February – 02 March 2007

DATE	SUBJECT	MCLE CREDIT UNITS/TOPIC	LECTURERS
26 Feb Mon	The Revised Rules of the Court of Appeals (MCLE Prescribed Subject)	Three/Pre-Trial (3 units)	Justice Romeo A. Brawner
	Updates: Consular Law and Procedures (Administrative/Procedural Law)	Three (3) units (MCLE 3.c)	Justice Oscarlito M. Pineda
27 Feb	Rules on Corporate Rehabilitation and Rehabilitation Court (Commercial/Business Law)	Three (3) units (MCLE 3.c)	Prof. Beatriz L. Corazon-de
	Updates: Laws and Jurisprudence (International Law)	Three (3) units (MCLE 3.c)	Dean Merlin M. Magallona
	Ethical Considerations in Enforcing Fee Agreements (Legal Ethics)	Three (3) units (MCLE 3.c)	Dean Pacifico A. Agabin
28 Feb	Environmental Law (Administrative/Procedural Law)	Three (3) units (MCLE 3.c)	Prof. Marvic M.V.F. Leonen
	Trial Skills and Techniques (Pre-Trial and Trial Techniques)	Three (3) units (MCLE 3.c)	Prof. Marvic M.V.F. Leonen
01 Mar	Civil Procedure Revisited (Administrative/Procedural Law)	Three (3) units (MCLE 3.c)	Justice Jose C. Sabio, Jr.
	Ethical Considerations in the Settlement of Legal Remedies and Court Processes (Legal Ethics)	Three (3) units (MCLE 3.c)	Justice Oswaldo D. Agcaoili
02 Mar	Environmental Management and the Art of Dispute and Conflict Resolution (ADR Advocacy)	Three (3) units (MCLE 3.c)	Prof. Theodore O. Te
	Court-Annexed and Court - Referred Mediation (ADR)	Three (3) units (MCLE 3.c)	Prof. Rowena D.V. Danes-Mendoza
	ADR Skills for Lawyers (ADR)	Three (3) units (MCLE 3.c)	Prof. Rowena D.V. Danes-Mendoza

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MANDATORY CONTINUING LEGAL EDUCATION (MCLE) COMPLIANCE PROGRAM
SATURDAY COURSE
03, 10, 17, 24 February and 03 March 2007

DATE	SUBJECT	CREDIT HOURS/TIME	LECTURERS
3 Feb	Court-Annexed and Court-Referred Mediation (ADR)	Three (3) (8:00-12:00)	Commissioner Lucita M. Arriola
	The Rules on Pre-Trial (Pre-Trial and Trial Skills)	Four (4) (1:00-5:00)	Prof. Ma. Victoria A. Aurea
10 Feb	Corruption and Discipline and Abuse of Public Trust (Legal Ethics)	Three (3) (8:00-12:00)	Justice Oswaldo M. Pineda
	Recent Supreme Court Decision Affecting Lawyers and Addressing Grievances Against Court Personnel (MCLE Prescribed)	Three (3) (1:00-5:00)	Atty. Nicolas Cuevas Antonio
17 Feb	Tax Consideration in Doing Business in the Philippines (Substantive Law)	Three (3) (8:00-12:00)	Prof. Ma. Rowena Paras Cruz
	Effective Legal Writing (Legal Writing & Case Analysis)	Four (4) (1:00-5:00)	Prof. Rodolfo C. Aviso III
24 Feb	Analytical Survey of Selected SC Decisions in Persons and Family Law (Substantive Law)	Three (3) (8:00-12:00)	Prof. Rowena D. Danes-Mendoza
	Internal Rules of the Court of Appeals (Substantive Law)	Three (3) (1:00-4:00)	Justice Jose L. Sabio, Jr.
	ADR and the Lawyer (ADR)	Two (2) (4:00-5:00)	Prof. Rowena D. Danes-Mendoza
03 Mar	Overview of the 2007 Electoral Process (MCLE Prescribed)	Three (3) (8:00-12:00)	Justice Reynaldo D. Blanchflor
	IPR and its Implications: International Law	Two (2) (1:00-3:00)	Dean Merlin M. Magallona
	Courtroom Decorum (Legal Ethics)	Three (3) (3:00-6:00)	Judge Rosalina Pasion

- REGISTRATION FEE: P1,000.00/package or P750.00/session (morning session or afternoon session)
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CA justice regrets misquoting Justice Oliver Holmes

By Norman Bordadora

IT WAS A FOOTNOTE ERROR AND WAS not meant in any way to mislead.

That is how Court of Appeals associate justice Apolinario Bruselas explained the alleged misquotation found in his decision finding incest the custody issue of nine-year-old girl Lizzie Cyd Daniel Smith.

Bruselas cited in his decision a quote from the retired US Supreme Court justice Oliver Wendell Holmes Jnr. which former Senate President Jovito Salonga found to be inaccurate.

Last week, Salonga raised the issue that the CA's justification of Smith's custody must after being transferred to the US Embassy following an agreement between the Philippine and US rules was based on a "distorted, fabricated" quote from Holmes.

He said Holmes' quote cited in the CA decision that stated "the other branches of the government are ultimate guardians of the liberties and welfare of the people, no quite as great a degree as the courts" shouldn't be read "legitimizers are the ultimate guardians of the liberties and welfare of the people."

Salonga said the quote was used to justify the executive branch's actions that led to Smith's transfer on Dec. 29 to the US Embassy from the Makati City Jail despite the pending custody appeal filed by Smith himself before the CA which was then still enacted on.

But on Friday, Bruselas' division clerk of court informed Salonga that the purported Holmes quote cited by the CA should have been attributed to US Supreme Court Justice Louis Brandeis in a 1932 dissenting opinion and not to Holmes himself in a 1909 decision.

"We wish to reiterate that the Office appreciates the good senator's vigilance and continued concern for the country and the Filipino people," said lawyer Jesus Jose Reyes Dimaculangan, clerk of court of the CA's special 20th Division chaired by Bruselas.

"At any rate, we assure you that the correction was made in plain good faith," she added.

"I'm willing to understand Justice Bruselas' explanation but the question is a mere paraphrase and does not meet the issue against Smith who was convicted for raping 'Nicole,'" Salonga told the reporters.

"What will the court now do with respect to the arrange [that were] committed against not only Nicole but also against the judiciary and against our supposed people?" he added.

Salonga said that while he didn't believe Bruselas may have deliberately misquoted the US magistrate Holmes, he may be held liable for falsification punishable under the Revised Penal Code with seven mayor or up to six months in prison.

"What about the complicity between the executive department and the US government supposedly if US Justice under Nicole former?" Salonga asked.

DOH maintains alert against avian flu

THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH has maintained its preparedness and strict monitoring of influenza cases in the country following the latest Phnh Hinh's Organization's warning of the resurgence of the deadly bird flu virus in Asia.

Dr. Eric Tayag, head of the department's National Epidemiology Center, yesterday said airports and seaports throughout the country remained on alert for any possible bird flu hosts abroad.

"We will on alert and monitoring the status" even if the country remained bird flu free, Tayag said in a phone interview.

"Our preparations and measures are in place nationwide and they had not been relaxed; we don't want to be caught off guard," he added.

The health official said that the center recently concluded its first simulation exercises with the Bureau of Quarantine where personnel and staff of the airports and seaports were trained how to respond as possible bird flu hosts, and how to use equipment such as thermo scanners in detecting people possibly sick with bird flu.

Aside from the simulation exercise, Tayag said the center continued to keep in touch "on a regular basis" with the Department of Agriculture for the monitoring of migratory birds as well as the poultry industry.

Local government units are also involved in the information dissemination drive. —Jeremy Asuncion

Koran translation meant for Maranao only, says scholar

By Nash B. Pimentel
Inquirer Mindanao

COTABATO CITY—THE MARANAO SCHOLAR who translated the Koran into the Maranao dialect defended his work yesterday, saying it was "solely intended for Maranaos [readers]."

Sheikh Abdul Aziz Santomarong, speaking by phone through an interpreter from the Saudi Arabia Embassy in Manila, [illegible] that his work could be vulnerable to misinterpretation when read by a Magindanaon or Iranun—neighboring Muslim tribes in Central Mindanao.

Another Filipino Muslim scholar Datuk Mohammad Dalumas suggested that language row when he said last week that the translated Koran being distributed by Saudi missions described Allah with the word "lagu," which he understood to mean "cow."

Santomarong, however, disowned the copy cited by Salamona in the Inquirer report on Thursday, noting that the cover page of that disputed publication said: "The Koran with interpretation of it in the Iranun dialect in the Philippines."

His original work never made any reference to the Iranun dialect, he stressed.

Differences in dialect

The Maranao dialect, spoken mainly by the Muslims of the Lanao provinces in Central Mindanao, greatly differs from the Magindanaon dialect which is spoken by people of Maguindanao province.

Iranun (sometimes spelled as "Ilanun") is is widely spoken by a community of ethnic Iranun people living in upland Shariff Kabunsuan province, which is between Magindanao and Lanao del Sur. Iranuns combine many Maranao and Magindanaon terms, he explained.

"My translation is solely intended for the Maranao audience and it may not be understood by a non-Maranao," he repeated.

But Bashir Mustapha, a Maranao, told the Inquirer that he too sought the attention of local ulamas (scholars) regarding his copy of the translation, particularly, of Ayman 68:60 of the Koran's Chapter 18, titled Al-Baqara (The heifer).

English translation

Mustapha said his copy, which was given to him by Arab-looking men during his pilgrimage to Mecca, has Verse 68 translated to mean: "In truth, God said he is a cow close to old enough; not too young, but one that is appropriate in age." Verse 68 repeats part of the above translation and prescribes the cow's color as "frowning" (yellow).

In an English translation of the Koran (1995 edition), eminent Muslim scholar Abdullah Yusuf Ali quotes Moses in Verse 68, Chapter II as saying: "The heifer should be neither too old- 'Nor too young' but of middling age. Now, do what ye are commanded." The sacrifice is said to be meant to straighten the children of Israel's submission in the face God after they worshipped an image of a calf fashioned out of yellow metal at the foot of Mount Sinai.

Earlier, the governor of the Philippine Islamic Council, Tahir Bantuas, came to Santomarong's defense.

Bantuas said Salamona—who is not Maranao—was "probably lost in his own translation," of the Maranao version of the Koran.

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HANDS-ON: Cebu City Mayor Tomas Osmeña exerts militant groups trying to get as close as possible to the Cebu International Convention Center. He ran police lines blocked the protesters before they could reach the boundary of Cebu City and Mandaue City where the CICC is located. MARIANNE BERMUDEZ

Mayor stops Cebu rally by himself

CEBU CITY—HUNDREDS OF DEMONstrators intent on marching right into the grounds of the convention center where leaders of Southeast Asian nations launched their annual meeting yesterday were stopped from doing so by the timely intervention of Cebu City Mayor Tomas Osmeña.

Osmeña, known for being brutally frank and for refusing to back down from unpopular decisions, prevented a violent confrontation between the police and the protesters who were marching towards the Cebu International Convention Center (CICC) in defiance of a police ban on rallies.

The protesters started gathering early yesterday at the Fuente Osmeña Park in the city center. They carried effigies of President Macapagal-Arroyo and of a "Western figure in bribe[ry]" like, I "Terrorist."

Later they began marching in the direction of the CICC in Mandaue (where some of the summit events were being held). "US Ito. I terrorist," chanted the demonstrators.

Osmeña marched with the demonstrators for more than three kilometers, until they were stopped by a platoon of riot police in Mabolo, about 200 meters from the convention center on Juan Luna Ave., or about 6 p.m.

In tension-ridden Osmeña stepped in, negotiating with the leaders of the march for almost an hour until heavy rain. He and the protesters were all soaking wet.

'Freedom Park'

The mayor told Renato Reyes and Bud Nebrajar, the secretary general and Cebu head respectively of the Bayang Alyansang Makabayan, that he had already offered practically the whole of Cebu City as their "freedom park."

He said this meant that activists were to barricade stage protest activities in practically all parts of the city except in the commercial zone, the streets taken by summit delegates as they travel between their hotels and summit venues—the CICC in Mandaue and the Shangri-La Mactan Island Resort and Spa on Mactan island.

The marchers eventually agreed to finish their program where they were stopped. They burned the effigies of the leaders, US President George Bush and Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi, and quietly dispersed at about 7 p.m.

Supt. Mariano Pascual, the ground commander for Central Dispersal Management, said the police and the military were grateful to Osmeña whose presence was the No. 1 reason why a confrontation was prevented.

"The protesters have strong respect for the mayor, so the mayor has to be protective," Retuta said.

Osmeña has built some goodwill with the militant groups in Cebu, especially after he allowed activists take cover from other exposure to join the summit protest activities to stay at an elementary school in Barangay Lahug.

By contrast, Mandaue Mayor Thaddeus Ouano declared a no-permit no-rally policy in his city, giving the police the go-signal to use whatever means necessary to stop any demonstrations.

Four activists, affiliated with Bayan Muna, were jailed on Friday. One of them claimed to have been mauled by a policeman when he tried to go near the CICC with other protesters. —Rosevic Sapalicaan, Inquirer Visayas

AIDS: Asean

By Veh Cuenca

CEBU—SOUTHEAST ASIAN LEADers are being challenged to spend more on AIDS-related programs because workers and their clients, especially across gays and drug addicts—people who may not easily draw compassion in a "judgmental" society.

At yesterday's opening of the 11th Summit of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, leaders of the 10-nation bloc formally received a UN report saying the region has become home to an estimated 1.5 million people with HIV/AIDS.

The "most severe epidemics" of the disease in the subset of Asia are in the Asean countries, said UN Undersecretary General Dirce Pico, author of the report which was tabled at the ministerial retreat of the leaders held at Shangri-La

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n urged to do more for sex workers, gays, addicts

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AIDS epidemics erupting in most Asian countries are largely concentrated in these groups, it noted.

The long-term challenge for Asians is for Asians to ensure that lifesaving medicines, such as new antiretroviral drugs and "a future vaccine against AIDS," will be easily affordable to patients especially in low-income member countries, the document said.

Twenty-four years after the first cases of AIDS were detected in homosexual men in the United States, progress is continuing the disease has been most successful in countries that have promoted "a supportive and non-judgmental environment" for the affected individual.

Slowdowns in some states

In contrast, "mandatory approaches," such as requiring people to undergo tests, have only worsened things and have not worked in practice, "the report added.

The papers noted that the epidemic had slowed down to some Asian states because of efforts of governments and civil society. "But the overall signs are worrying."

More "newly infected" people were recorded worldwide in 2006 than in any previous year, he said, citing UNAIDS data released two months ago.

In an Inquirer interview in Cebu, UNAIDS Deputy Executive Director Deborah Landey explained that while the worldwide spread of AIDS "continues to outstrip our efforts, we are starting to see progress for the first time in certain countries."

In East and West Africa, the Caribbean, and in Asean's Thailand and Cambodia, infection rates have also started to decline, thanks to their respective prevention efforts, she said in the subtitles of the summit.

Also on an encouraging note, Landey said a UN target set in 1991 by AIDS-related] research expenditures worldwide to reach $7.4 billion by 2005 has been met. Of that sum, 35 percent came from national governments' budgets.

Some 4.5 million people are infected with HIV/AIDS in Asia, out of the worldwide total of just under 14 million, according to UNAIDS figures.

Of the global total, 2.5 million are infants under age of 15, Landey said.

The first case of HIV/AIDS in the Asean populace was reported in 1984. By 1998, the virus had spread to all 10 member countries.

Two years later, the organization addressed HIV/AIDS for the first time as a regional concern during the 6th Asean Summit held in Singapore.

People infected

UNAIDS figures from the number of people living with HIV/AIDS in each Asean country, based on estimates in 2003 and then in 2005, as follows:

- Brunei—less than 100 people in 2005 (same estimate in 2003)
- Cambodia—130,000 to 3[illegible] (50,000 in 2003)
- Indonesia—170,000 (110,000
- Laos—5,700 (1,700)
- Malaysia—69,000 (57,000)
- Burma—360,000 (390,000)
- Philippines—11,000 (9,500)
- Singapore—13,900 (4,700)
- Thailand—580,000 (580,000)
- Vietnam—260,000 (210,000)

Asean inks terror pact

Front page A1

the region that has seen some of the world's deadliest terror attacks by militants wanting to create a conservative Islamic enclave.

The pact appears unequivocally ambitious, given many principle of decision by consensus and its customary reluctance to be seen as interfering in member country's internal affairs.

For instance, the convention says it could be used as a legal basis to extradite terror suspects in the absence of a treaty extradition treaty. Regular consultations sometimes take years to negotiate.

The governments expressed their deep concern "over the grave danger posed by terrorism to innocent lives, infrastructure and the environment, regional and international peace," according to a copy of the convention.

The accord calls on the nations to improve regional cooperation on persons attacks, and to rapidly share intelligence and relay terror warnings.

It also acknowledged the nations to curb terror financing and to undertake counterterrorism training, but stressed that no member country can cross another's territory to conduct [illegible].

The region was urged to strengthen its capability to deal with possible chemical, biological and nuclear attacks by militants.

In a bid to prosecute terror suspects faster, the convention encouraged authorities to use video-conferencing in court proceedings and provide grounds for suspects' extradition.

Fair treatment of suspects

The accord guarantees fair treatment of suspects, and calls for efforts to rehabilitate those convicted in an attempt to prevent repeat attacks.

The pact is a culmination of Asean ambitious century discussions and agreements that began after the attacks on the United States of Sept. 11, 2001.

The proliferation of terror attacks across Southeast Asia and the rise of Islamic extremist groups like Jemaah Islamiyah and the Abu Sayyaf have added impetus to the effort.

Asean officials met in Bali last November to ensure the pact would be in harmony with national laws and regulations, and to come up with language to fit member countries' different legal systems.

Meeting on how to use pact

Indonesia plans to hold a meeting in March of its Asean counterparts and Australia, to discuss how the new convention could be best used.

Indonesia, Malaysia and the Philippines formed an antiterrorism coalition a year after the Sept. 11 attacks. They were later joined by Cambodia and Thailand. The rest of Asean—Brunei, Laos, Burma, Singapore and Vietnam—had stayed out of the coalition.

One agreement signed yesterday was a commitment to shore up the region's then-stormy economy, making the Association instead into a region of regionalization and is expanding its role as an integrated regional economy and a dynamic force in maintaining regional peace and stability."

After 40 years, a charter

"We are committed to establish an Asean charter as a crowning achievement of 40 years of Asean," they said.

The 10-chapter charter acted in the past on internal consensus and refrained from interfering in each other's international affairs, leaving it open to criticism that it is little more than a "talking shop."

The issue has come up most often regarding the ruling generals of Burma (Myanmar), who have snubbed regional and international pressure to make concrete progress on its self-proclaimed "road map" to democracy and political reforms.

Burma escaped censure at the UN Security Council on Friday when China and Russia used a rare double veto to block a UN-backed resolution that would have called on the junta to release all its political prisoners.

The charter a wide charter up and adopted later this year at the group—first founded by five nations in the heyday of the Vietnam War—marks its 40th anniversary.

Leaders endorsed a charter blueprint that allows for the possible expulsion of members in extreme circumstances, analysts doubt whether the group will take the hard step that would allow for outright punishment of its members.

But former President Fidel Ramos, one of the experts who helped draft the blueprint, warned Friday that Asean did not have the luxury of avoiding the kinds of rules that govern Europe and other blocs.

"We are going to be left behind," he said.

Ms Arroyo praised

In a press conference yesterday Prime Minister Abdullah Badawi of Malaysia praised Ms Arroyo's deft handling of the Asean Summit which was postponed for nearly due to inclement weather and, many suspect, because of security threats.

Badawi said that all the Asean leaders were briefed on the proposals of the group of experts for the transition to a rules-based organization, including plans to expel members for unconstitutional and undemocratic changes of government and human rights violations.

China, South Korea, Japan and Japan will hold summits with the 10 Asean leaders today. They will be joined by Australia and New Zealand Monday for the East Asia summit.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

SUNDAY, JANUARY 14, 2007

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

OPINION

Stop talking

THE PERCEPTION HAS GROWN OVER THE YEARS: The Association of Southeast Asian Nations is nothing but a talking shop, a diplomatic paper factory, whose purpose is indistinguishable from its principal product: the circulation of communiqués.

This is, by and large, an unfair perception, driven by each leader as the swirling pageantry that surrounds the annual summit of the 10 heads of government. There are, in fact, existing arrangements that make Asean cooperation a reality. There is, in fact, an existing organization that promotes inter-Asean consultation, if not actual policy-making.

EDITORIAL

And yet the perception lingers. Grousings has grown on the need for Asean to do—or indeed to be—something more substantial. More than any other previous regional conference, the 12th Asean Summit being held in Cebu this weekend has seen that imperative evolve from a felt need to an articulated one.

The Asean's own Eminent Persons Group (EPG) has issued a set of radical recommendations for the heads of government to act on: from all indications, the Asean leaders will endorse the plan to write a "charter"—a framework for policy-making that is more binding on the member-states—in pursuit of greater regional integration.

A welcome and necessary initiative, but we must confess to being somewhat underwhelmed. We are concerned that certain conditions will conspire to prevent Asean from meeting this goal.

The natural forces of modernization in the region—old allies Thailand and the Philippines—have lost a great measure of influence in Asean matters, in large part because, in the last half-decade or so, they have been consumed by internal politics. We see this as unfortunate, not because other member-countries have not stepped up (they have, especially the other three original Asean members), but because the presence of the Philippines and Thailand—linchpins in every single regional grouping since the end of World War II—helps explain the regional bloc's appeal.

The worldwide war of attrition with fundamentalist terrorists—many of whom maintain bases in different parts of Southeast Asia—threatens to draw Asean's principal members, like Indonesia,

The P26 billion should be accounted for

LAST SATURDAY, JAN. 6, THE INQUIRER REPORTED that "The President's traditional New Year call on the military top brass in their Camp Aguinaldo headquarters yesterday became a pre-procurement conference to finalize the shopping list of 14 major items to be bought next month."

First of all, a slight correction. The commander in chief never calls on the military brass. It is always the brass who call on their commander in chief. The source of the recession does not matter.

The President's announcement of a P26 billion spending bonanza for the armed forces of the Philippines provided a good start for the New Year. Perhaps, she will also sign into law the bill, recently passed by Congress, fixing the terms of the AFP chief of staff and the service commanders.

At 7:30 a.m. yesterday, the AFP vice chief of staff and head of the military panel for the upgrading of equipment, identified some of the big ticket items on the shopping list: six refurbished UH-1H helicopters; 20 upgraded MG-520 attack helicopters; and several shallow water boats for the Navy. Someone added that the AFP already had P5 billion piled aside for the release of the first tranche.

All these pronouncements are great for the morale of our armed forces and I share their hopes and aspirations for a decent upgrade—I will not use the term modernization—of the government's capabilities.

* * *

More than 10 years ago, during the presidency of Fidel V. Ramos, the Base Conversion and Development Act of 1992 (RA 7227) was passed providing for the sale of Fort Bonifacio and other military camps. It was later amended (RA 7917) to provide for the distribution of the proceeds from the sale in the following manner:

1) 15 percent to finance the civil reliance and modernization programs of the AFP.

2) 27.5 percent to be retained by the SCDA to finance the construction and upgrading of infrastructure to make Clark Air Base and Subic more accessible.

3) 12 percent to finance the National Shelter Program.

Other beneficiaries were allotted smaller amounts and to the cities of Fort Bonifacio, the municipalities of Makati, Taguig and Pateros were allotted 2.5 percent each. All in all, there were 16 beneficiary agencies.

The second piece of legislation directly affecting AFP, which came out also during the term of President Ramos, was RA 7898, which provides for the modernization of the AFP. Act 15 of the law—also for the establishment of an AFP Modernization Trust Fund to be used exclusively for the modernization program. The Fund would come from, among other sources, the proceeds of the sale of military camps as provided for under the BCDA law.

In October 1998, the Committee on Good Government chaired by Cagayan rep. Edgar Lara held hearings on the subject of the proceeds from the sale of Fort Bonifacio. SCDA officials testified that they had remitted P26 billion of the proceeds from the sale of military camps to the National Treasury. In turn, the National Treasury testified that the funds were turned over to the Department of Budget and Management. Former DBM Secretary Salvador Enriquez Jr. also testified that the funds were transferred to the General Fund under the "one-fund concept" of government budgeting.

REVEILLE

Ramon J. Farolan

At that time, I raised the question of why the portion of the proceeds allotted to the AFP was transferred to the General Fund instead of being put into a Modernization Trust Fund as provided for by law. When these got into the General Fund, it can be used for many purposes. By conservative, these were reports that the Commercial contributions in June 1998, including the concession of a Commercial Dispo facility, were using going P11 billion.

In a hearing on Representative Lara, dated Oct. 8, 1998, national treasurer Leonor Briones informed the Committee on Good Government that of the 16 beneficiary agencies, all except one, received various amounts from 1995-1998, with the BCDA getting the biggest release to the tune of P12.2 billion.

Guess which agency got nothing? The AFP, which was supposed to receive the major share of the proceeds, failed to get a single centavo and to least had was ever established. Former Defense Secretary Renato de Villa testified before the Lara Committee that he sent seven letters to the DBM requesting the release of funds for the AFP Modernization Program. All seven requests were turned down.

Today, we are seeing another P26 billion being set aside for the upgrade of the armed forces. The President says it comes as a result of "a costly inventory of equipment." Well and good. But are we prepared to allot funds for the needs of the AFP, our people are entitled to an accounting of the proceeds from the sale of military camps.

Fort Bonifacio, an army facility, represented part of the historical legacy of our armed forces to the nation, primarily for the benefit of the AFP. The men and women of the AFP are entitled to know what happened to their share of the sale proceeds. We must have some accounting if we are to finally close the books on this dark page of the Ramos presidency.

A shooting and a marriage

THERE ARE MANY MORE QUESTIONS LEFT unanswered in the killing of one Rafael de la Rea, 48, who was found, with a gunshot wound in the head, in the Makati office of former Batangas Gov. Antonio Leviste.

Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay said Leviste had confessed to the shooting, allegedly in self-defense, but there no other details were available because Leviste is under the custody of the police.

Tony Leviste is better known as the estranged husband of former Senator (and unsuccessful opposition senatorial candidate) Loren Legarda, from whom he has been separated for several years. But it was Loren who made headlines during the book launch party of her autobiography last December, their separation acknowledged what had been widely rumored for the last few years. The couple has two sons.

Binay says Leviste shot de la Rea in a long-time sanctum of the Leviste family, the office of Tony's late father, Ramon, till the most mysterious and intriguing. Isn't thought the former senator could just be right to see where she refused to speculate on what happened and said that, regardless of the circumstances, as police it should be "always treated..." Justice must be served and no one is above the law."

Still, the shooting of De las Alas and the confinement of Leviste in the hospital strikes a disturbing note in one of the more public and prominent of families in our country. The Leviste-Legarda political partnership have disintegrated so totally and ended up in the pages of the political blotter.

* * *

Pit chief's home torn down after shooting will leave an impact on Legarda's vote for the Senate in the May elections. Certainly, the senator is most popular and recognized figure. Before she decided to run for vice president alongside Fernando Poe Jr. in 2004, she had acknowledged that she was lobbying to big-risk senator till the opinion polls had shown that she was sure to emerge as the top senator in that year's Senate race. Recent polls have placed her at the top of the list of prohibited candidates again.

Legarda and Leviste must relive the unfortunate incident like her TV show on ABS-CBN, after her return from the United States, after a short.

Central Asia's other Turkmenbashis

ALMOST EVERY'S HIDDEN DAGER AGAINST ASPIRATIONS GERIC political instability. But it is doubly dangerous when it poses a risk of regime-wide destabilization and a scramble for influence among the world's greatest military powers—the United States, Russia and China.

The sudden death on last December of Saparmurat Niyazov, Turkmenistan's authoritarian president for life who declared himself "eternal

health" October of all Turkmens[illegible] jeopardized stability in a country that is between highly important regional energy players. Its

WORLD VIEW

F. Stephen Larrabee

rope. Worse, given the distance of a deeply deregulated economy and the weakness of civil society and other political institutions, his death could have repercussions across Central Asia.

Indeed, Niyazov's demise highlights the broader problems of Central Asia's post-Soviet regimes, which, with the exception of Kyrgyzstan, are run by Soviet-era bosses who, while not exactly as eccentric or opportunistic as Niyazov, also are fickle dictators or opposition. Most of them are old, some of them are unwell. So, in the next few years, Central Asia will face leadership changes on many fronts, with security ramifications—which, as in Turkmenistan, have been crucial to fostering those countries' regimes—likely playing important roles.

Here these transitions turn out well matter for several reasons.

First, Central Asia is an important source of energy. The Caspian region accounts for 3 percent to 5 percent of the world's oil reserves, and the Caspian Sea basin and the North Sea. While far smaller than the deposits in Saudi Arabia or Iran, Caspian oil could prove important if oil production falls or is reduced for political reasons elsewhere.

Much of this Caspian oil is in Kazakhstan, giving that country a critical role in the regional energy matter. Moreover, Kazakhstan's energy reserves have increased as a result of recent revelations that the country's Kashagan oil field will produce 25 percent more than initially expected at peak production.

Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan are also major exporters of natural gas. Russia depends heavily on Turkmen gas for domestic consumption and to support exports, which could prove vital as demand rises over the next decade.

Second, Central Asia's leadership transitions could temporarily empower regional spoilers, increasing instability and sparking a struggle for influence. Because the region was part of both the Soviet Union and the Russian empire, President Vladimir Putin is unlikely to accept it as part of Moscow's natural sphere of influence. Putin's efforts to transform Russia into a major energy power and use energy as a tool of Russian foreign policy make the region all the more strategically significant.

Moreover, China has sought to improve trade and transit ties with Central Asia over the last decade, reflecting its growing interest in the region. Already is the region important for sating China's growing energy needs; Chinese authorities are also concerned about separatist pressures among the Uighur population in Xinjiang province and the impact of ties with Uighurs in neighboring Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan.

Like Russia, China wants a reduction of the US military presence in the region. Beijing has used its influence in the Shanghai Cooperation Organization—a regional grouping that includes Russia, China, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan—as a vehicle to pressure the United States to withdraw its military bases from the region. However, this cooperation represents a short-term, tactical marriage of convenience rather than a budding new strategic alliance. In the long run, Russia and China are likely to be rivals for power and influence in Central Asia.

Iran could also view the transitions in Central Asia as an opportunity to expand its regional influence, particularly given its close ethnic and cultural ties with Tajikistan and its long border with Turkmenistan. And, like China and Russia, Iran has no desire to see the United States establishing any enduring military role in the region, particularly Tajikistan, where it has a small base.

Finally, the transitions in Central Asia could have a strong impact on US interests. At long as the United States remains involved militarily in Afghanistan, the Central Asian Transit hub will remain important. With the loss of the use of the base at Karshi-Khanabad in Uzbekistan, access to Manas airfield in Kyrgyzstan has become the main means of re-supplying US troops in Afghanistan from Central Asia.

Moreover, the political situation in Kyrgyzstan is far from stable. Increasingly corrupt and authoritarian, Bakiyev's rule is rating. A leadership change or increased Russian and Chinese pressure on Kyrgyz leaders could precipitate calls for a renegotiation of the agreement regarding access to Manas—or even demands for its termination altogether.

In the 19th century the struggle for mastery in Central Asia between the Russian and British empires was called "The Great Game." Today, there are many more players involved, and the stakes—energy security, above all—are far higher now. America, India, Europe and Japan will face increasing tension between their short-term military needs in the region and their long-term goal of promoting political reform in order to create more stable, reliable partners.

Indeed, the key challenge in the years ahead will be to find the proper balance between these two objectives. Given the prospect of further leadership changes and increasing instability, meeting that challenge has never been more important.

Project Syndicate

F. Stephen Larrabee holds the corporate chair in the upper University and is the RAND Corporation, a nonprofit research organization.

A shooting and a marriage

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

lived marriage and a stab at a broadcast career there. She had no problems switching her career to her private, as this was during the heady exciting post-Edsa days, and in the following years, Loren would emerge as the "face" of the network, anchoring its prime-time news program and hosting an award-winning public affairs show.

She would parlay this popularity and public credibility into a political career, her broadcast persona providing the wheel jumping board to the Senate.

Amid hostile her in this subway from TV personality to senator was Tony Leviste, who had no qualms playing second to his beautiful and accomplished wife.

* * *

I MET the couple soon after a column on "Instant," that unrealistic and pampered Star Trek Diviner, came out. I don't think Loren was into politics yet, but still they invited me for a "wine, cheese and dinner" session at their penthouse in the Loyola-owned condominium in Makati because they happened to be cold dinner from them.

Another memory that has to do with Leviste was watching him perform magic tricks, which he had studied and perfected during awkward rallies to entertain the audience in the course of Loren's campaign.

Though undoubted in his affections for his wife, even publicly declaring that he was proud to be the "consummate trophy-spouse" for his wife, getting her coveted husband's every waking attention is so admitted to having differences with Loren, the most glaring being her negative view on the Visiting Forces Agreement, which he apparently favored.

But even if I followed Loren's political career as she gambled it on because not be a nob at the vice-presidency (she would have been president after FPJ's death had FPJ been declared winner in the polls), I must confess the news of the Legarda-Leviste separation came to me rather late in the game.

There were rumors swirling about the cause of the cracks in this once-solid marriage, but every marriage has its own private problems, and only the two people involved—aya even the children—can address once why the relationship failed.

The dooming of De las Alas has brought the spotlight once more on the Legarda-Leviste ex-union, but I'm not about to speculate on what caused the collapse, for it's the rain-checking, petty and tragic kind pertaining Leviste or whom my thoughts and prayers are out at the moment.

* * *

MY CONDOLENCES to the family of the late Cecilia Arnaldo Gutierrez, especially to her daughter Chin-Chin, an actor, singer and environmental activist, and a doter in the TOPNOTCH Foundation.

Arnaldo-Gutierrez died late evening Friday after a lingering illness.

You may recall that the home of Chin-Chin, where her mother also resided, burned to the ground over the holidays, and while both Chin-Chin and her mother managed to escape the fire, these still in a TV interview, Chin-Chin explained that she was forced to jump from the second floor of her home, where the fire started, to the ground floor because she was worried about the flames reaching her mother's bedroom. Long hobbles, Chin-Chin's mother was depending on the oxygen to help her breathe, and while Chin-Chin was able to bring her mother out of the house despite recent dispose burns, she lost everything in the fire including her beloved pets.

It surely is a most trying, distressing time for Chin-Chin, the other members of her family and her friends. I can only hope she finds a measure of peace after this time of trial. Arnaldo-Gutierrez is scheduled to lie in state at the Battle Chapel of bishop Memorial Chapels on Aurora Avenue. Interment details to follow.

Bush's surge of madness

PUBLIC LIVES

Randy David

IF YOU WERE AN IRAQI TODAY WHO CARES deeply for his country, what would you do? Your country, previously one of the most modern in the Arab world, has been reduced to rubble. A weak government, installed by the United States, depends entirely on soldiers under its protection and by sectarian violence and an anti-insurgent guerilla war. This government cannot exist a day longer without US military support. Would you ask the American troops to leave? Or would you ask them to stay until they have cleaned up the mess they created and the they can hand power over?

We do not have the voice of the Iraqi people in this war, neither do we had their vote. It is as if the whole world has mindlessly taken the experiment of America as its own. And as the problem of Iraq is framed solely in terms of how the war can be brought to an acceptable end without further embarrassment of American power, Iraq and people, literally become victims of the future of Iraq from the perspective of the Iraqi people themselves.

It is interesting that we are told exactly how much has been spent in this war ($400 billion), how many American soldiers have been killed (3,000), and what percentage of the American people believe their country is losing the war in Iraq (57 percent). Yet we have do not have the faintest idea what the total damage to Iraqi property and facilities has been so far, how many Iraqi lives have been taken since the US invasion, and how many people have died before they have a country they can call their own.

To all intents and purposes, the nation-state that is Iraq is no more. The government heralded by Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki bears all the markings of a puppet government. It has military control in only three out of 18 provinces. It has no administrative presence in these provinces. It cannot even maintain order in Baghdad, the seat of government.

If the American plumber Iraq today deserves are it will be demoralized. The Iraqis will declare a separate state, as will the Sunnis. The Shiites are stepping up operations against sectarian militias and insurgents. When that is done, he says, the Iraqi government must assume the burden of completing the unfinished business of maintaining order and rebuilding the country.

How can one deal with a thoughtless man like this? He is a shallow person, he had his country to win. He told them it was going to be a short and swift engagement. He now says he misunderstood. But instead of admitting that the war was a gigantic mistake from the start, he argues that pulling out now would be very costly. He blames the pullout on the pressure he receives from the US public. He pleads for more money and troops to undertake one final "surge."

My prediction is that the insurgents and the militias will only harrow deeper during the surge, consuming the US Congress will not stop Bush's war appropriations. A certain degree of peace and order within demonstrably achieved in and around Baghdad, and then the withdrawal of troops may start with American pride intact. But the civil war will resume even before the last Coalition soldier will leave Iraq. This is the quagmire that is Iraq today like in the animal that the world should never have allowed.

Many countries today are run by tyrants like Saddam. In our part of the world, Burma's generals really come to mind. But, like it or not, they hold the nation together, and, in not a few instances, have brought it some kind of peace and a measure of economic prosperity. We know that their "reason" can never justify the oppression of their own people. Yet it is absurd to bring democracy to such societies by invading them, or to hope to build effective governments upon their ruins. For people to become active participants in their own liberation, the yearning for freedom must first take root in their hearts. The conquest of a democratic nation are always built in the course of the struggle for freedom itself. They cannot be dated overnight, or, much less, assembled from without.

(Comments to rjdavid@mail.com)

THEY SAID

Unacceptable

"The situation in Iraq is unacceptable to the American people, and it is unacceptable to me ... Where mistakes have been made, the responsibility rests with me."

—US President George W. Bush on the US chaos in Iraq

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TALK of the TOWN

Please send feedback to
(Our Juan V. Sarmiento Jr.

(Our Juan V. Sarmiento Jr.

NAME: Lea Lama
AGE: 11
ABOUT THE DRAWING: During the typhoon, she and her family fled to the barangay hall to seek shelter. They were all crying. She also heard other people crying out loud. Muchlisan buried the Lama house. She saw dead people one knee. like Tiya Lolong and Richelle (her friend). She said they were killed by a tree.

NAME: Reynaldo Nacion
AGE: 11
ABOUT THE DRAWING: His mother and siblings spent the entire night on the roof of their house as the flood was rising. His three other siblings were brought to the evacuation center. He saw his mother crying. All of them hugged for their lives and they cried. His hopes that a typhoon will not visit Aliwa province again. Typhoon was worse him.

NAME: Jovis Mosqueda
AGE: 9
ABOUT THE DRAWING: His father said he heard someone crying outside their house. "Where his father opened the door, they found that the water was already waist-deep. Someone told them that the water was going to rise further and that they should transfer to the huge building nearby. He saw 12 houses flying and toppled trees.

NAME: Jane Christian Yabaan
AGE: 8
ABOUT THE DRAWING: While mother was rolling inside the house, he and his family were forced to transfer to a nearby concrete building. He saw many things being carried away by the mudflow, including a pigpen. His pet dog was brought to the roof of their house. He said his family was soaking wet because of the rain and flood and his mother always died of hypothermia. They were saved when a truck came to their rescue the next day. Their house was destroyed by the mudflow but their dog was still alive. He wishes for only fine weather and no typhoons.

NAME: Mark Daryl Encinas
AGE: 8
ABOUT THE DRAWING: At the height of the typhoon, while he was on the roof, he saw floaters carrying away people, toolboxes, pieces of furniture, trees and other things. "Nakakita ako ang isang tao na puga-asad. Mataw-anan sa tubig. Nalabot ako ni Edsel pinsan kong kasi. (I saw three people being swept away. The water was so dark. I was scared we might be swept away, too.)," he said.
After the typhoon, he did not see the people who were swept away by the flood along with their houses.

NAME: Eloisa Faye Velasco
AGE: 8
ABOUT THE DRAWING: She vividly recalled the flooding during the typhoon. When the water was rising, she and her family went to her grandmother's house. Luckily, her family's house was not destroyed. But grandmother helped fix it. Since the typhoon, she and her family have been living at the Binitayan Elementary School in Daraga, Albay.

Kids 'draw and tell' to heal wounds

"HAPPY 4TH BIRTHDAY JULIA!" WAS THE STREAMER, ALONG WITH BALLOONS, that her parents put up about two weeks ago at their abandoned house in Padang, Legazpi City. The house is half-buried in lahar.

Children were among the more than 1,200 people who died in Albay when Super-typhoon "Reming" hit the Bicol region on Nov. 29 last year.

Among the fatalities were Gizelle, 10; Ariel, 12; Jayrelle, 11; and Arnold, 10—children of Ariel Llapoyo Sr., a civil engineer working in Qatar, who was in the car until his family and the last survivors were then three were buried in Barangay Bonot in Daraga, Albay was destroyed by mudflows from the slopes of Mt. Mayon.

Also killed were Llapoyo's wife, Jocelyn, eldest son Ariel's two children, and three others who sought shelter in the house, and Ofrid by, a cardiologist in Legazpi.

Gizelle was a third year student at the Philippine Science High School in Los, Canonoon Gue. The tragedy that was shocking it rather for the schools of children who survived the typhoon.

Weeks after the typhoon struck, the dominant feelings of the survivors staying in evacuation centers were anger, sadness and guilt, according to counselors.

A child, who has a three-year-old sister, is not talking. Another child hangs his head on the floor or table. Morning himself for the death of his younger siblings.

To help them recover from the personal and social, social workers and counselors from nongovernment organizations are conducting many debriefing sessions.

Children are given paper and crayons so they can draw what they were through during the typhoon. The drawings featured here were done by children from Barangay Binitayan in Daraga. —Editor

POSSIBLE EFFECTS OF TRAUMA ON A CHILD

3 years old and younger

- fear of separation from parents
- crying
- whimpering
- screaming
- immobility
- aimless motion
- trembling
- frightened facial expressions
- excessive clinging
- aggressive behaviors such as acting on the normal night

4 to 11 years old

- anxious withdrawal
- disruptive behavior
- inability to pay attention
- refusal to attend school
- outbursts of anger
- fighting
- bodily symptoms without medical basis
- depression
- anxiety
- feelings of guilt
- emotional numbing

12 to 17 years old (adolescents)

- flashbacks
- nightmares
- emotional numbing
- avoidance of any reminders of the traumatic event
- substance abuse
- problems with peers
- antisocial behavior
- withdrawal
- isolation
- physical complaints
- suicidal thoughts
- school avoidance
- academic decline
- sleep disturbances
- confusion
- extreme guilt over his or her failure to prevent injury or loss of life
- harboring revenge fantasies

(Cruz L. Lilen)

By Ephraim Aguilar

LEGAZPI CITY—CHILDREN'S drawings help to relieve campers have recently illustrated the tragedy that Super-typhoon "Reming" brought to Albay.

The simple crayon strokes are relatively free from sadness and fear.

After the typhoon, dubbed by residents here "as the worst in history," Child Initiative Management (CIM), workers were conducted to outline evacuation centers by the Department of Social Welfare and Development Bicol and by nongovernment organizations.

"Draw and tell" was the method used by social workers in dealing with the traumatized children in evacuation centers after the supertyphoon destroyed their homes, ravaged homes, and killed their loved ones.

The drawings vary depending on the children's experiences. Some show their bodies floating on floodwaters while others depict typhoon victims and rescuers.

CHILDREN from Barangay Tagas in Daraga, Albay draw on Jan. 2 as the Binitayan Elementary School where they went through during the typhoon.

Crying for help

Some drawings show human reactions such as trauma and children crying and desperately shouting for help.

Ma. Concepcion Flores, social welfare officer in the DSWD, said social workers would first let the children narrate their experiences during the disaster by drawing.

The social workers discuss the drawings with the children, asking about what they drew, why they drew it, and what they felt when they were in that disaster situation.

Flores said it was important to give these children an outlet to release their reactions after the traumatic experience to prevent adverse effects from haunting them (the kids) on the effects of trauma.

Stress

The dominant feelings of the children affected by Reming were fear and grief because many of their loved ones died or lost their relatives and friends, Flores said.

Lea Lama, 11, temporarily housed in Binitayan Elementary School in Daraga, Albay, said that after the typhoon, she saw the bodies of "Tiya Lolong and her friend Richelle" before they were picked up by relatives.

"My mother and I were in the village to check on our house after the typhoon, until I saw their bodies on the ground. They were people I knew," Lama told the inquirer in Filipino.

Richelle was my playmate. I feel sad that I will never see her again," she said.

Almost all the children told the Inquirer that they heard people crying when the floodwaters rose and screams of frightened small and awful from Mt. Mayon's swamped their village.

Some children, who stayed on rooftops, told of "seeing trees, old and young people and animals drowning or being carried away by the strong currents. They also saw splintered trees, flowers and animals being blown away by the winds.

John Christian Yabaan, 8, said his new his mother almost die from the cold. They were wet all night and were exposed to the after the typhoon. He also noted that the flood which came, that only parts of their house that could be seen while the rest was underwater. Those details were drawn in his drawing.

Terrified

Most of the children said they were terrified at the height of Reming and wished that no other typhoon like it would ever hit their region.

After the social worker's intervention with the child, the last stage of the storm debrief, ing session was "processing."

In "processing," the social workers gave inputs so the child no make him or her understand the disaster and, more importantly, to tell him or her what he or she should do if the disaster happens again, according to Flores.

"We make these sessions so that when they bid during the tragedy we have a normal reaction of a person to an abnormal situation. We also help them create a contingency plan in preparation for other disasters," Flores said.

After the session, the social workers identified those who need follow-up and those who have to be referred for further psychological evaluation.

Closure

Grave management is part of the social workers' work. Flores said counselors usually offered rites to people who suffer from the loss of loved ones who died of natural causes. In the Philippines, it is customary to have wake for the dead.

The DSWD assured using CISM in the recovery during the killer earthquake that devastated Baguio City on July 16, 1990.

CISM has been a mainstay in disaster operations of the DSWD in Bicol for more than a decade now—the entire being prone to natural calamities such as typhoons and volcanic eruptions.

It was first used in Bicol by social workers during the 1991 Mayon "Mayon eruption that left more 100 people dead and thousands displaced.

Flores said CISM was meant to open the wounds of disaster victims, heal them, and help them find closure to enable them to move on.

(Ephraim Aguilar is a resident of Legazpi City. e correspondence@inquirer.Southern Luzon.)

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Across the NATION

Tune in your feedback: inquirer.net starting at 10:00 pm (Globe) or 2:00 (Smart). Assistant Editor Tony Bregondo

3 weeks of rains cause closure of major Eastern Visayas road

By Vicente S. Libro
Inquirer Visayas

CALUBIAN CITY—HEAVY RAINS that have been pouring into Eastern Visayas for past three weeks have caused the closure of a major route for motorists traveling from Leyte to Mindanao, according to Department of Public Works and Highways officials here.

The landslide-prone Agas-Agas road section in Southern Leyte has again been closed to traffic after heavy rains hit the area for the past few days. The road section is part of the Maharlika Pan-Philippine Highway, also known as the Surigao-Davao-Butuan Road.

But Peñaranda said that while from the Agas-Agas road and the road connecting Bulgang and Lapinig towns, this is ongoing construction in Northern Samar, all other national roads in the region are passable now.

"Despite our limited resources we are able to respond to whatever damages that occurred on our roads that had been affected [by the continuous rains]," he said.

Carlos Veloso, DPWH district engineer for Southern Leyte, said that damages to national roads in his area were estimated to be P20.3 million.

Citing a weather bureau report, Veloso revealed that the rainfall gauge readings in the Agas-Agas area had recorded 200 mm last Jan. 9.

"The last time that a 200 mm rainfall was recorded was in February last year when the Guinsaugon landslide occurred," he said, referring to the Feb. 17, 2006 landslide that buried the entire village of Guinsaugon in St. Bernard, Southern Leyte.

Veloso said that if the rains will stop for two to three days, they would reopen the Agas-Agas road to traffic. Travel time is no less longer when motorists take the alternate route.

In Eastern Samar, the DPWH has closed to traffic a portion of the national road in Oquendo town, after a 12-meter road dip occurred last December. The road is along the South Samar Coastal Road.

Pablo Galvan, district engineer for Eastern Samar, said that on-site damages of the road that collapsed was also recorded. He said they would soon allow them to strengthen the bailey bridge that was installed on the damaged road section.

Galvan said continuous rains have also hampered the repair and rehabilitation of the Borongan Taft asphalt road.

2 Mindanao regions hit by floods; 4 dead

SAN FRANCISCO, AGUSAN DEL SUR—AT LEAST four people were confirmed dead while three others were declared missing as floodwaters, triggered by days of incessant rains, continue to rise in Caraga and Southern Mindanao regions.

The Office of Civil Defense (OCD) in Caraga said the latest recorded fatality was a 9-year-old boy from Barangay Bayanihan, Jonelta, Agusan del Sur.

The OCD Caraga said Alfon Labombo, the fourth confirmed fatality in the region, drowned while trying to cross a flood bridge on New Year's Day. Search for Alfon's body is still on, particularly his parents rely on Feeling.

The others killed in the floods were Ismael Serrano, 15, of Barangay Sangeguin in Veruela, Agusan del Sur; Josephine Gonzales, 40, of Barangay 9 in Cabadbaran, Agusan del Norte; and Rosalina Bilbao, 42, of Barangay Mabini in Las Nieves, also in Agusan del Norte.

Rudy Bilbao, 12, of Barangay Bebuking in Esperanza, Agusan del Sur; Ramon Deponio, 5, of Barangay Cebu in Esperanza, Agusan del Sur; and Jonathan C. Pulpul, 17, of San Miguel, Surigao del Sur, remained missing as of Saturday.

In Compostela Valley, at least 11 others drowned and/or died after the spate of the rained that were digging in Mabantao, Davao Oriental, helping them inside on Thursday.

Antonio Oñate, operations chief of the OCD in Southern Mindanao, said the effects of Barangay Mabini was by parents caused by the withering of the soil due to the continuing 24x7 rainfalls.

Eulan Xavier Serna, Caraga regional director of Mindanao area has left state.

Oñate said the miners were forced after more than 10 hours of rescue efforts by the fellow miners.

He said the OCD has been working miners to refrain from operating their mines because landslides could occur in them.

"We have already alerted all mining sites, especially those who are on Mt. Diwalwal, to be very careful and take extra precaution. We have also cautioned our operating units Rivers similar incidents will occur," Commander Dra. Jose Caballero said in an interview over a radio station in Davao.

In the past, dozens of miners were killed in similar cave-ins in mining sites in the region, including Mt. Diwalwal.

In Compostela, Davao de Oro, news supplied by strong winds cut off power supply. Although the Davao del Sur Electric Cooperative (Davaoco) has already set a repair team, a large area of the town remains without power as of Friday.

Chito Mercado of Mayor Rafael Bautista also reported that the floods destroyed cornfields in many villages but no one else has been reported so far.

Pablo Jose, agricultural Leonida Salamanca said the floods also destroyed about P1 million worth of crops.

The OCD in Northern Mindanao said the total number of people displaced by these floodwaters has already reached 36,949 families or 180,198 persons. These came from 194 villages in the region's four provinces.

Local officials of Don Justin and Lorenzo Ruiz in Camiguin province also reported that their towns are under a state of calamity because of the increasing amount of damage brought by the floods.

Oñate said a total of casualty has also been declared in the towns of Esperanza, Bonifacio, Cantilan and Kitcharao in Surigao del Norte; Gloria Pangantihan, Ignacio Santos, Jeffrey Tapon and Abdin Aguirre, Inquirer Mindanao

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PMA cadets have been warned about malicious, who may attempt to campaign inside the academy for the May mid-term elections. While overt political campaigns were made in the past PMA leaders say they're now on the lookout.

PMA officials anticipate poll gimmicks during homecoming

By Vincent Cabreza
Inquirer Northern Luzon

BAGUIO CITY—OFFICIALS OF THE Philippine Military Academy are anticipating to-wear political campaigning inside their campus because of candidates belonging to their alumni who will attend the annual homecoming in February and May.

Maj. Gen. Leopoldo Maligalig, PMA superintendent, said the PMA Alumni Association has prohibited overt signs of political campaigning during the homecoming.

"But our ability to enforce [the PMAAA directive] is limited to the rules we will enforce inside the academy. PMAAA activities are not part of the school system, which is organized and run by the alumni association. We will see how it goes because this is essentially an affair of the whole Philippine Army," Maligalig said.

The presence alone of Senate President Manuel Villar, an honorary member of PMA "Maringal" Class of 1967, and Defense Secretary Fernando Gonzalez, an honorary member of PMA "Hinirang" Class of 1967, "should make the event interesting," according to Maligalig official.

Both these classes are involved in this year's alumni celebrations as 40th, of and 17, as the year's celebrations, the source said.

Maligalig said he has chosen Villar to be this year's guest speaker.

"We contacted [speaker Nikki] Coseteng on choosing on whom he addresses the alumni. Campaigning to previous homecomings was obvious. There were streamers. There were banners [and] the speaker said, 'Vote for me.'"

One of the retired officers of the academy was former Philippine National Police (PNP) Director General Arturo Lomibao, who delivered walkie-talkie calendars to soldiers and policemen in the city during the Christmas holidays.

Lomibao, a member of PMA Class 1972 and now head of the National Irrigation Administration (NIA), earlier told reporters that he was considering to Senate seat under the administration ticket or running for Pangasinan governor.

Maligalig has not imposed any ban on media on the cadets. He said the PMA merely guides cadets on how to react when they are approached by candidates or when they receive anti-Semitic political information they might from newspapers, television or the Internet.

"Our [instructions] are for them to be circumspect. I [when they] were cadets, we had to vote. [But] I also reminded [PMA officials] to discuss with cadets the importance of being in uniform," he said.

Article XII, Section 4 of the 1987 Constitution says: "The Armed Forces shall be insulated from partisan politics. No member of the military shall engage directly or indirectly in any partisan political activity, except to vote."

But politics is always a favorite academy topic, particularly among cadets, some PMA officials told the Inquirer.

"Many of the cadets are curious because one of their own [a classmate] has political ties," a PMA source said.

Capt. Aileen Orejana-Tillanes, who teaches computer courses, is the wife of detained Lt. Senior Grade Antonio "Trillanes IV who declared his intentions to run for senator.

Orejana-Tillanes, who is on a study leave in Australia, has kept a low profile, despite the fact that she is a well known by being one of the three seven women cadets to graduate from PMA in 1997.

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INQUIRER Mindanao

Island kids suffer from lack of bridge

CONTRACTORS have left this 50-meter footbridge in Barangay Taknanon in Bongao Island, Sharif Kabunsuan unfinished.

By Nash B. Maulana
Bongao Island, Sharif Kabunsuan

SCHOOLCHILDREN HERE have to brave the cold morning rains as they cross the rough sea on small motorized boats to go to school.

A sixty-village leader, Sali Amgan, showed the Inquirer a half-finished 50-meter footbridge that schoolchildren and teachers could have otherwise used in going to the nearest school in Barangay Taknanon, from the island's northeastern tip in Barangay Taknanon.

Amgan said the footbridge had been left undone by its contractors for almost 18 years. Some residents, however, suggest that some local executives may have influenced some prominent figures against finishing the bridge, leaving residents with no choice but to take small pump boats to and from an adjacent village where their children go to school.

"This may be (the result of) a clandestine political conspiracy among influential voters and some people running for public office," a resident said.

About 10,000 people live in this island of seven barangays where roads and bridges hardly exist. About 200 Grades 4 to 6 and high school students have to take the boat ride for 15 minutes every day to go to school in the nearby village because no road or bridge have been finished to link the island to the next village.

Amgan said members of the 6 towns in the of the poverty-stricken Bongo Island in Sharif Kabunsuan province couldn't hardly resist a fallout view in a day of working mostly from morning and not fishing, seaweed crops harvesting and selling are business stopped from fishing and harvesting.

The island has been known to get during elections got locals on the source of "handsome," which means that boat operators could deliver "captive votes" like the Cotta fish that abound in the Moro Gulf.

Amgan said the United Nations Multi-Donor Program has collectively put up assistance to many projects in Taknanon, such as a post harvest fruits warehouse and a solar dryer. But those projects have rarely been seen to be operational.

Residents said the local cooperative of seaweeds growers and fishers had received seven small motorized boats from the defunct Sagipuri with the Transition Reinforced Livelihood Assistance Program (TRCP) Project which was funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

Overlapping

But Amgan said they could no longer use the small fishing boats within the 15-kilometer territory limit from the shoreline for municipal fishing because of a conservation program for seaweeds that residents have agreed up with the Mindanao Rural Development Program.

Nabeela Alon, the UN Act for Peace area manager for the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM), said the fourth phase of the UN's conflict prevention program would factor in the cultural identity "via consensus-based consultations in determining the real needs of the community."

Some islanders said they were used to earning easy money from smuggling of discounted cigarettes from Borneo to Cotabato during the days before martial law was declared in the 1960s.

Amgan said many had since sought refuge in Sarawak, but had been recently been offered by the Malaysian government to withdraw on illegal aliens from Mindanao.

Still, many of the residents have left the island for Metro Manila where they engage in small scale livelihood activities like selling cooked food and serving as middle persons for the recruitment of domestic helpers and laborers in the Middle East.

SCHOOLCHILDREN pose in this community overpass in Barangay Taknanon so that children may be spared from disasters.

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A WAITING GHOST automorphic mud and volcanic materials serves as a reminder of the tragedy that befell this village in Albay right after strong rains and floods brought down tons of boulders and mud from Mayon volcano.

Batangas gov suspended over computer scam

BATANGAS CITY—THE OMBUDSMAN has suspended Batangas Gov. Armand Sanchez, who sees his supporters barricading the provincial capitol in a bid to prevent the serving of the suspension order.

Deputies republished this city yesterday as 300 supporters of Sanchez occupied the provincial capitol.

The suspension order for six months was signed Friday afternoon by Ombudsman Merceditas Gutierrez, almost 10 months after Batangas Vice Gov. Ricky Recto filed a complaint case against Sanchez for allegedly rigging a P356-million computerization project of the province.

The multimillion-peso real property tax computerization project was bagged by newcomer Data Processing Technologies Inc. (DOPTI) and Generation-X Systems Inc., whose biggest shareholders—Geraldine Enriquez for ADST and Marijoan Murillo for Gen-X—are both Sanchez's cousins.

Sanchez had been identified in the "pasaway" list of Batangas for 11 times during the Senate investigation on jueteng in 2000 and was the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group's prime suspect in the murder of Batangas businessman Guillermo Luna, who was investigating anomalous deals and problems in the capitol before he was killed.

Aside from security personnel, a six-wheel truck was placed at the capitol's locked main gate apparently to keep out anybody who would serve the suspension order on Sanchez.

A provincial government shuttle bus with license plate RAV 913 and Toyota van with license plate RAS 781 were likewise parked to block the opening at the capitol's second main entry point, where the offices of the National Bureau of Investigation and the Department of the Interior and Local Government are located.

Although Sanchez was nowhere to be found in his office, his provincial administrator, lawyer Busalio Gatus, was present at the building and presided over the meeting of several department heads and other political supporters of the governor.

A capitol insider said that after the meeting, the office heads were ordered to stay on until Monday when the suspension order is expected to be served, and gather 3,000 supporters to prevent the DILG from serving the suspension order.

But the local police kept off from the area.

Senior Supt. Zaldy Berenguer, police director, said he saw no reason to deploy his men to the capitol complex.

Zaldy said although there was a message of the governor's followers, "They are not creating any trouble or turmoil."

"If I deploy police officers there, people might get agitated. People might put color to it," he said. Marlon Ramos and Marlon Ramirez, Inquirer Southern Luzon

Pinatubo survivors give hope to Albay folk

By Tonette Orejas
Inquirer Central Luzon

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—EVIDENCED Mt. Pinatubo's eruptions and lahar onslaught in Pampanga province, the homeless here can give to Albayanos who bore the brunt of a similar tragedy in November last year.

Governed by the Archdiocese of San Fernando's Social Action Center of Pampanga (Sacep), Pampanga's worker in Pinatubo might told not the details of what was described as the "most coordinated, most diverse" response to the Bicol disaster.

They are assembling the assistance—goods, funds and body of experience, lessons and expertise in disaster management—under a solidarity mission dubbed "Kaibiges Caravan to Bicol (From Pinatubo to Mayon)."

It is set to start in mid-February and to be done in coordination with the Disaster of Legaspi's Social Action Center.

Spirit of hope

"We hope to reciprocate the goodwill and charity that flowed from countless groups during the 1991 eruptions and sweeping lahar campaigns in Pampanga after the blasts," said Fr. Benjamin Rex Untang, Sacep executive director.

What the mission mainly sought to do, he said, was "share the spirit of hope."

"The Kapampangans struggled to overcome the disaster in ways ranging from self-help to organized actions in communities. It is in this sense that we'd like to recapture Bicol volunteerism to motivate or build trust and commitment again," Untang said.

The priest called the rebuilding process a difficult task, citing the experience in the province four-seven of Mt. Pinatubo.

"But it can be done," he said.

As of Friday the mission had involved the Pampanga Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Clark investors and Luzonex Association, Cybercity Teleservices, local government of the City of San Fernando and Caregan, Pampanga Disaster Response Network, Iloni Pampanga Movement, Iloni San Fernando Movement, Iloconnels Magsisi Memorial Foundation Inc., Pampanga Press Club and people's organizations in the resource mobilization campaign.

Gabang said several of these groups started their respective drives last December. The city government of San Fernando raised nearly P1 million through a television marathon.

Similar events

Cybercity donated computer software called Inbound/Outbound Aid Management System and Victim Monitoring System to the Provincial Disaster Coordinating Council in Albay.

Sacep is remiss to the "lamar" (offerings) given during the 1601 canonical coronation of Virgen de las Saludes, patroness of Pampanga.

He said most groups, individuals, schools and corporations are being invited to join the mission to provide long-term forms of assistance to Bicol residents as lahar flows are expected to be recurring events in that region.

The caravan includes relief distribution, medical missions, discussions for cooperation between local governments in disaster preparedness and rehabilitation, and programs support for community organizing, livelihood and resettlement.

It will also hold a forum where at least six speakers from Pampanga will share how their communities and organizations worked to overcome the disaster.

Gabang said the mission would give priority to seamless and unnecessary ties that have been forcibly hit, least helped and still at high risk.

At the meeting, the leaders found similarities in the nature of the disaster that struck Pampanga and especially Albay.

Like in Pinatubo, strong rains from typhoons such as "Nanang" on Nov. 26 mobilized lahar from the slopes of Mt. Mayon, devastating mostly Sto. Domingo, Legazpi, Daraga and Guinobatan.

As of Dec. 6, 496 people were reported dead, 714 missing and 1,205 injured.

The mission is seen as a coaching chapter for the country's history of disaster response because, through it, "victims-turned-survivors can also be hope-givers," said organizers.

Pampanguenos who want to support the mission can contact the secretariat through Sacep at 0919-505-6505, (045) 860-3238/961-4012 and sacep_pinatubo@yahoo.com.

12 traders' groups ask labor to drop wage bid

By Carla P. Gomez
Inquirer Visayas

BACOLOD CITY—TWELVE BUSINESS and planters' groups in Negros Occidental yesterday asked an open letter calling on labor groups to rethink their stand on a P125 legislated wage increase, saying it will spell doom for businesses.

The business and planters' groups said they are against wage hiking by Congress and instead supports a "properly studied" wage increase handled by the regional Tripartite Wages and Productivity Boards.

The House has passed a bill seeking a P125 across-the-board wage increase to be implemented over three years. The passage of a counterpart bill in the Senate is being awaited.

"We do have a clear-cut view of the impact and repercussions of a legislated wage hike," the business and planters' groups said.

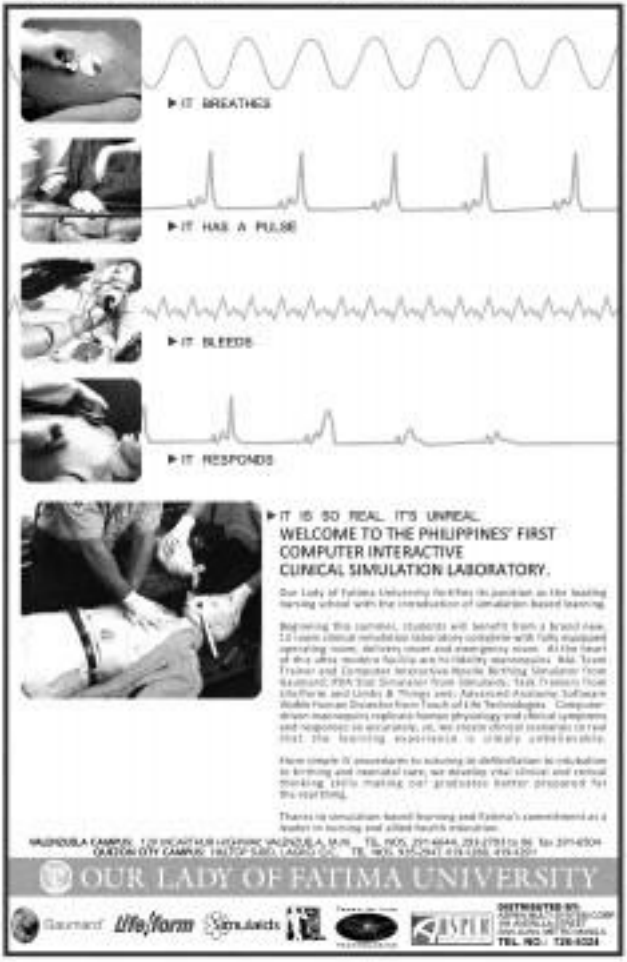
They said a legislated wage increase would result in more massive business millions of workers will lose their jobs due to massive layoffs.

This will be an offshoot of various micro, small and medium enterprises closing or reducing their manpower, they said.

Investors will also be driven away because of the high cost of labor and production, and more underground economic ventures will flourish beyond the reach of regulating authorities at the expense of consumers, they added.

They also said a legislated across-the-board wage increase will hence no room for collective bargaining negotiations.

Among the groups that signed the letter were the Silver Banded Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Northern Negros Filipino Chinese Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Association of Negros Producers Inc., Private Hospitals Association of the Philippines Negros Occidental, Bacolod Filipino Chinese Chamber of Commerce and Industry Inc., Southern Negros Filipino Chinese Chamber of Commerce and Industry.



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Election season officially begins today

By Jaymee Anting

TODAY MARKS THE BEGINNING OF THE 150-DAY ELECTION period for the May 14 congressional and local elections. A public gun ban is in effect; movements or transfers of government personnel are on hold.

During this period, the Commission on Elections, in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution, becomes more powerful by virtue of its authority to deputize any government agency to ensure free, orderly, honest, peaceful and credible elections.

Beginning tomorrow, those interested in running for the Senate or local government posts may start filing their certificates of candidacy.

James Arthur Jimenez, Comelec education and information department director, said the agency was busy with its preparations, including the bidding of ballots for materials it would need for the democratic exercise.

From if the 2007 national budget has not yet been passed, Congress and Malacañang had assured the Comelec of a steady stream of cash for the May 14 elections, he said.

Jimenez said the Comelec would be coming out this week with the final count of registered voters for 2007. The Comelec estimated this May's voters will reach as many as 45 million, reporting the increase in poll precincts from 200,000 to about 210,000.

Based on the Comelec's schedule, local election offices should have finished hearing applications for registration and the transfer of voters' records last Friday.

Today the Comelec's committee on election voting will start preparing for certified list of overseas voters, which is expected to number around 300,000.

The election period will last until June 13.

Party-list groups may also file their manifestation of intent to participate in the elections.

The filing period for nuisance and party-list groups ends Feb. 12, while that for local officials ends on March 25.

The campaign periods for each category begins the day after their respective filing periods end and should stop on May 12.

ABALOS

'Abalos,' other Comelec execs' ouster to restore credibility'

By Jaymee Anting

A COALITION OF NONGOVERNMENTAL groups yesterday called on Commission on Elections chair Benjamin Abalos Sr. and two other commissioners to step down and restore to poll body's credibility.

The Consortium on Electoral Reforms (CER) said Abalos and Commissioners Resurreccion Borra and Florentino Tuason were "tainted."

The three election officials were absent impeached for their alleged complicity in the P1.3-billion election automation contract that the Supreme Court voided in 2004 for violating bidding rules.

There have is the still unresolved "bribe" issue of "scandal involving former Comelec Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano and President Macapagal-Arroyo's alleged plot to rig the results of the May 2004 presidential elections.

"They should acknowledge that as an institution, the Comelec's credibility has been compromised and, therefore, they should resign by command responsibility," CER chair Ramon Casiple said.

CER, composed of 45 NGOs and other sectoral groups, made the demand as the election period started today.

"If they remain in office and the public still perceives the Comelec as [being] without credibility, there is a great danger that the results [of the elections] will be again become an issue," Casiple said.

Not quitting

Abalos, meanwhile, has dismissed CER's appeal for him to resign, reiterating that doing so would be an admission or admitting that he did something wrong.

In a phone interview he appealed to critics of the Comelec to stop questioning the credibility of the commission's officials.

Abalos said those who were defeated in the 2004 elections should have a "character change" and "accept the result that they are losers," to prevent electoral protests from clogging the Comelec.

He stressed that "no alliance had sold stone and sea never able to influence the outcome of the 2004 elections, adding that Mr Arroyo was the real victor in the presidential race.

Faith in poll body

Abalos said the high number of potential candidates for the midterm congressional and local elections, as well as the chance by disenfranchised voters to submit the registration period, reconfirmed the allegations that the electorate had lost its faith in the poll body.

"If it's true that the Comelec could not be trusted anymore, no one would be interested to participate in the elections," he said.

Casiple said that if Abalos, Tuason and Borra could not be pressured into resigning, the President should fill, as soon as possible, the seventh and remaining vacant seat in the Comelec commissionership with a person known for his non-partisanship, competence and integrity.

"This will tip the balance [toward] new commissioners appointed by the 2004 election fraud," Casiple said, referring to newly appointed Commissioners Rene Sarmiento, Romeo Brawner and Nicodemo Ferrer.

Tie-breaker

The appointments of a new commissioners would be good, in case a tie-breaker was needed in a decision, Casiple said.

The seventh commissioner could also take on some of the duties and oversight functions that the six commissioners had been sharing, he said.

Casiple, who is also executive director of the Quezon City-based Institute for Political and Electoral Reforms (Iper), also suggested that the new commissioner should be young so that he could perform his duties energetically.

The new appointees to the Comelec included Brawner, a retired presiding justice of the Court of Appeals; Ferrer, a retired associate justice of the Sandiganbayan, and Sarmiento, a former presidential adviser on the peace process and a former Iper director.

"Gusto ko makita ni mister ang makulay naming Bagong Taon."

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Poor kids were his inspiration in being the best he could be

THE PORTALCION Boys Club, honored by Clemente Domingo III in 1993, only an expo- sure for bright boys- to mischief.

By Tina G. Santos

EVERY WEEKEND FOR THE past 14 years, Clemente Domingo III, "Thief" to his family and friends, has brought bright but poor boys aged 5 to 15 from his community in Pembo, Makati to a "club" of sorts.

The 28-year-old creative director of Dentsu Young Advertising began the Pembo Boys Club (PBC) in childhood in 1993 at the age of 13 will be the first step toward a brighter future for the kids—by inspiring them to think beyond the dusk and cruel streets of their impoverished community.

He also wants them to value the importance of hard work, perseverance and the relentless pursuit of education to achieve success.

"I was always playing with ses- dropo in the park when I was growing up. Most of them were not in school or were forced to drop out to help their parents earn a living," said Domingo, the only child of a policeman father and a public school teacher mother. "I was lucky because I was able to go to school."

He said his playmates inspired him to strive and excel to show everything he did.

According to Domingo, he put up the club, where first members were ten former playmates in the neighborhood, to serve as a support system for poor boys. He hoped it would help steer them toward a meaningful life and away from vices in the streets.

"This is my way of giving something back to society and thanking those who helped me become what I am now," the father of two young girls, aged 5 and 7, said.

Right now, PBC has 37 members, most of them street children, who are taught everything under the sun," Domingo added.

"I teach them different things...from grooming, proper hygiene and first aid to calculus, values formation and good manners. Everything I know, I pass on to them," he said. "So you see kids who were mischievous go improve here to stay. Those are kids who were more than we do," the boss also gathers them involved in projects and activities such as basketball, mountain climbing, hiking or at times, just swimming.

Over the years, he has seen the changes in his boys.

"Many of those in the old group were born-again Christians and good jobs," Domingo added. "It is fulfilling to inspire children to focus on good things."

Here is a while, he asks his friends to join him in various activities with the children.

"I encourage them (his friends) to experience what I have experienced, and somehow make a difference in the lives of these young boys," he said.

Domingo I told the Inquirer that being around children has made him realize his aptitude for teaching.

Apart from setting up his own **corporate** for **DentsuBates** advertising, he teaches integrated marketing communications, including advertising, art directing and copywriting at his alma mater, the University of Asia and the Pacific (UAP).

"I think it was in the course of these kids that I learned my teaching skills," said Domingo, now on his fourth year as a professor at UAP. "Making jobs along singkars. I love sharing what I know and learning from my students."

He said he feels a different high when he sees his students excel. Many of them, he added, now work in different companies and advertising agencies.

Domingo was a competent leader student since grade school. He graduated cum laudeomar from city Elementary School, got a scholarship from the Southridge Night School where he received an academic excellence award and graduated valedictorian.

He always strings himself up- classed in college where he took up mass communications. He did his post graduate studies at UP-KEC but on a scholarship.

Domingo says also good in sports, extracurricular activities and sports like chess, basketball, ping pong and soccer. He was also a theater artist, director and writer and was the youngest winner of the Lifetime award for Literature in the University of the Philippines' Writers Workshop for Poetry.

"I don't want to be idle. I want to learn all the time, 24-7," he said. "I hate not doing anything. I read, watch DVDs, whatever, as long as I learn something."

Last year, Domingo was named one of the Most Outstanding Citizens of Makati by the city government's various youth projects. He was awardee included former President Fidel Ramos, Pres. Secretary Ignacio Bunye and former children of General Fidel Chavez.

He has also had his share of professional success. He was part of the advertising team that created commercials that earned local and international acclaim from ADCongress, Creative Guild of the Philippines, Anvil Talent Award, EBP Radio Awards, London International Advertising and One Show New York Advertising Festival, among others.

"Working hard is mandatory for success," Domingo said. "Your work is your prayer and you can only offer your work as a prayer if you accept it as it. That's why is much as I can. I try to excel in my work."

Although most people would think that the outside he has created are the only way of gauging his success, Domingo said he thinks differently.

"Success is not so much what you have achieved in what you have become but what others have achieved and what they have become because of you," he said, quoting a phrase he read in a book that he said has become his motto.

GLOBAL Pinoy

Editor Gerry Lirio

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This section is dedicated to Filipinos overseas toiling on land and at sea, in factories, in construction sites and in the homes of the wealthy, and wherever work can be contracted to secure a better life for their families. These are their stories.

Muslim engineer comes home, builds houses in Sulu

By Erwinar Cuna

YEAR AFTER YEAR, PEOPLE MAKE THEIR OWN New Year's wishes and resolutions. For a successful overseas worker, engineer Michael Rasul Abubakar only wishes "a nation without shame" for this year. And this is no story.

While most would agree that addressing the issue of homelessness in conflict-stricken Sulu is too far-fetched, the native son of Indanan knows otherwise. In fact, even before Ramon Magsaysay awardee Antonio Meloto had his Gawad Kalinga housing project, Abubakar had started building houses in his hometown Patikul.

Armed with 23 years of work experience as civil engineer in Saudi Arabia, Abubakar wanted the best-ever housing project in Patikul to beat 2000 hoping that he would soon rebuild his community which, at that time, grappled with "lawlessness and poverty."

In just six years, his venture Dawlah Asalfiah building dozens and affordable homes for his community through The Pilot Sulu Estate Subdivision.

Dreams community

With the star of the first one subdivision, Abubakar has reconstructed not only homes but also lives. His beautifully showcases modern communities having complete amenities, crossroad roads with sidewalks, effective drainage system, and a 24-hour supply of water and electricity.

"I envision The First Sulu Estate as a model community, a repository of the future leaders of Sulu where people can grow up and be reared in the most ideal environment," the 44-year-old Abubakar says.

THE FIRST SULU ESTATE SUBDIVISION. A dream-model community rises in what was once a battlefield.

Making so be it called, says he aspires to help revitalize Sulu by working on a project that would help change people's negative perception of Sulu and its people.

The First Sulu Estate has since shown impressive progress, enabling economic activities and employment for more than 80 families in Patikul. The project, according to Abubakar, is sustainable with the support of the Sulu government and its people.

He has an avowed faith and hope for Sulu that he anchored his lifelong work on the future of Patikul after his stint as resident engineer at Wilson Sharwan in Saudi Arabia.

"My work is one way of instilling inspiration, hope and belief that Sulu has the development potential. Given the chance, what is possible in other developed areas and provinces is also possible in Sulu," he says.

"In the same way, what is possible through First Sulu Estate in Patikul, Sulu can also be possible by all municipalities of Sulu," adds the engineering graduate from Mapua Institute of Technology.

Go Negosyo awardee

Recently, Abubakar was awarded for being one of the five outstanding Overseas Filipino Entrepreneur by the Philippine Center for Entrepreneurship, an award given by PCE as part of the Go Negosyo para sa OFWs.

The Go Negosyo is part of the continuing Go Negosyo campaign aimed at developing entrepreneurship in the country to stimulate to complement the businesses of OFWs reunited with their families by exposing them to business opportunities.

"The award would accentuate my passion to awaken the long-abandoned aspirations of the people and communities a strong message which is powerful enough to mobilize Sulu's energy to a sustainable peace process," Abubakar says. "My goal to revitalize Sulu is grounded on my belief to do something greater than I am."

Tough decision

Abubakar first envisioned the "dream-love" blueprint of Sulu while coming home from abroad. Upon seeing his hometown mired in "poverty and lawlessness," he took it upon himself to reach out to his community. With the help of his wife Dr. Gerusing Sarapudin-Abubakar, he put up the M. Abubakar Consolidated Engineering (MACE) after returning first abroad in 1998.

"I'm an engineer; I will rebuild this city," says the father of five successful children—two of whom are doctors, one is a councilor, a company supervisor and the youngest, a nursing student. The latest addition to the family is a 5-year-old special child adopted at age 1.

But like any other Cinderella stories, his success is the fruit of sheer hard-work, determination and courage.

Born and raised in Jolo, Sulu, Abubakar, along with his wife, left the country in 1979 to work in Saudi Arabia. Leaving behind four very young children at that time was a very tough decision the couple had to make.

"Inshallah, the children followed them when the company agreed to pay for their travel documents. Hence, all the children practically grew up in the jobsite and had their primary education completed at the Pakistani International School in Saudi Arabia.

Knowing that life could be possible for his family overseas away, Abubakar flew to Saudi Arabia as a civil engineer but unintentionally rose to higher positions. From a resident engineer earning $1,500.00 a month, he rose to become a project engineer and manager earning $6,000.00 a month.

Investments in real estate

He was able to invest in real estate back home. In 1994, just over a year of overseas employment, he purchased a property in posh Avida Alabang Village worth P250,000 that he managed to sell for P1.4 million in 1997. He continued to invest in real estate, which has always provided him with the best long-term payoffs.

In 1986, he came back to the Philippines to pursue a postgraduate course at the Asian Institute of Management where he got his Masters in Management diploma. He also completed an administrative management course at the Ateneo de Manila University Graduate School of Business in Makati City.

In 1990 after two years of postgraduate studies, he went back to Saudi Arabia to finish his obligations and hand over the previous projects he had started. After six years, with all the experience and skills he had mastered for 23 years working abroad, he came back to the Philippines and established the construction company.

Small beginnings

After making a name for his new construction business in Manila, the idea of bringing development to hometown Sulu never ceased to bother him. He soon put up the MACE Hut, formed MACE's connection on building dozens and affordable abodes in Sulu, small beginnings which would then be known as The First Estate Subdivision in Patikul, Sulu.

"I am for long haul, hoping the obstacles and controversy resistance towards a long-term engagement of serving the stage or laying the foundation of a future Sulu," he says.

"Stimulating economic activities, creating employment, promoting peace, and paving the development path of Sulu. Building not just houses, but lives, inspiring hopes and realizing dreams," he adds.

MICKEY SAGUL ABUBAKAR IN PATIKUL: "I want to change the negative perception about Sulu and its people."

Tips on how to be a successful overseas worker

By Elvira Maza

Book review: Work Abroad! Filipinos' Guide to Working and Succeeding Overseas

Robert Jude Ok, project coordinator

Published by Quezon I. Inc., 2006

WHAT I LIKED AS A WEBSITE providing overseas Filipino workers information on how to get a job overseas is now a book.

Its publication couldn't be more timely.

For the first time in history, more than one million documented OFWs were deployed in less than a year's time, the Department of Labor and Employment reported on its website.

From Jan. 1 to Nov. 21, 2006, a total of 1,111 million OFWs left to work in over 188 countries, representing a growth rate of 11% from the same period last year. The estimated dollar remittances also rose to $8.31 billion during the first nine months of the year, which is a 14.4 percent growth rate over the same period in 2005.

The numbers are great but it takes significantly greater effort to land a job overseas. Unfortunately, when it comes to job hunting, Filipinos depend on hearsay and fate. The book will improve one's chances of becoming a successful OFW.

While it has yet to be called itself a Bible (the book wrote that title appropriately), as well as a how-to on working abroad, are always changing), it is comprehensive guide book for Filipino nurses working in the following fields: Medical and health care professionals namely, nurses, physical therapists and pharmacists; professional workers like engineers, architects and information and communications technology (ICT) professionals; service workers which include hospitality workers, caregivers and domestic helpers; overseas performing artists; seafarers.

Those looking for work in practices of a bank or a multinational company are not the target market of this book, although it wouldn't hurt for these lucky citizens of the world to find out what recruitment Filipinos go through to get a work visa.

Why a book?

Why publish a book when www.workabroad.ph has an online community of more than 100,000 registered members and 200 pharmacist agencies?

The book's publishers are painfully aware that majority of the Philippine population does not have Internet access. This is why they took extensive research information from their website.

For instance, it lists the top destinations and the in-demand jobs in those countries. It has articles on how to prepare a resumé, how to apply for a visa, how to apply for a Philippine passport and how to counter an employment contract.

It features inspiring success stories from OFWs and has useful country guides in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Hong Kong, United Arab Emirates, Taiwan, Japan, Kuwait, Qatar, Singapore, Italy, United Kingdom, Australia and Spain.

Country guides contain basic information on one's destination like weather, religion, government, expected salary, job concerns, cultural taboos, address and contact numbers of the Philippine Embassy and other pertinent information.

For instance, in Saudi Arabia, where the biggest number of OFW spikes is deployed, newly hired and unmarried female workers are not available to public holidays in Friday. In Taiwan, not everyone knows that a foreign worker's registration gap a phenomenon (ex-OFW3000), a worker's fee of 7,000 Taiwan dollars (P2,052) is the first year, 1,700 Taiwan dollars (P2,700) is the second year and 1,500 Taiwan dollars (P 2,400) is the third year.

The book doubles as a survival guide, dealing with homesickness, culture shock, social distinctions and graver tips on how to save money. "Open a bank account in the Philippines before leaving" is an oft-repeated advice together with "don't spend all your salary, save, invest in real estate or start a business."

It lists government programs and services for OFWs like the Pag-IBIG overseas program, legal assistance, scholarships for dependents, etc.

It has interesting snippets of information like the Philippines deploys the most number of nurses in the world and it is the second largest provider of doctors.

The largest concluded union in America, the National Education Association, reported that the United States would need 2.4 million teachers in the next 10 years in the following areas: Science, special ed and English.

The closest to Indigo in Taiwan was very the Indigo salary at $575 with a 20% in the Middle East, gets the lowest pay at $208. In Taiwan, however, the OFW is subjected to a lot of fees.

The Work Abroad website claims to have helped thousands of OFWs.

The book hopes to help more Filipinos get their dream jobs.

WORK ABROAD! Let the search engine stop.

"Work Abroad! Filipinos' Guide to Working and Succeeding Overseas" is available at National Bookstore, Powerbooks, Fully Booked and Office Point Areas.

The WORLD
Editor Lorenzo B. Gozon

Spain arrests Isabel Peron

AQUIESCIA Argentine President Maria Estela Martinez de Peron, also known as Isabel Peron, in 1988 photo. AFP

MADRID—SPAIN ON FRIDAY arrested former Argentine President Isabel Peron, who is wanted in her home country for questioning over the killings of leftist dissidents prior to the 1976-1983 military dictatorship.

Police arrested Peron, the widow of Argentina's former President Juan Domingo Peron, at her home in the Spanish town of Villanueva de El Fresno and it is judge Juan Ignacio Luna conditional release while a decision is taken on whether or not to extradite her.

Peron succeeded her husband as president after his death but she struggled to hold onto power as political violence between leftist guerrillas and anticommunist death squads accelerated. In March 1976, she was ousted in a coup.

A day before her arrest in Spain, an Argentine judge issued an international warrant for the former leader, whose full name is Maria Estela Martinez de Peron.

Federal Judge Raul Acosta wants to question her over the 1976 disappearance of a man who rights groups say was last seen being taken into custody by state security officials.

He also accuses Peron, who was just 45 years short of signing three decrees that facilitated acts of state terrorism during her 1974-1976 rule.

Soon after her arrest, a Spanish court granted provisional release to the 75-year-old on the condition that she appear before authorities every two months.

It accepted that her deliberate state of health meant there was no risk she would flee, a court source said.

The source said she may be able to fight extradition because of her dual Argentine-Spanish citizenship.

Peron's arrest comes as Argentina digs deeper into its past political violence.

President Nestor Kirchner, who has pushed for deeper investigations into past human rights abuses by the Jorge Rafael Videla regime, said after the warrant was issued that "no one is above the law." He is under investigation for the government's alleged role in the disappearance of leftist doctor Esposito in Buenos Aires province and the detention of another man.

"This had to happen. We waited 31 years and now it's starting to happen," Esposito's wife, Silvia Suss, told Argentine television. Reuters, AFP

Bush authorized Iranians' arrest in Iraq, Rice reveals

WASHINGTON—A RECENT SERIES OF US raids against Iranians in Iraq were authorized under an order that President Bush decided to issue several months ago to undertake a broad Military offensive against Iranian operatives in the country, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice said Friday.

"There has been a decision to go after these networks," Rice said in an interview with The New York Times in her office on Friday afternoon, before leaving on a trip to the Middle East.

Rice said Bush had acted "after a period of time in which we saw increasing activity" among Iranians in Iraq, "and increasing lethality in what they were producing," the aim referring to what US Military officials say is evidence that many of the most sophisticated improvised explosive devices, or IEDs, being used against US troops were made in Iran.

Rice was vague on the question of when Bush issued the order, but said his decision grew out of questions that the president and members of his National Security Council raised in the fall.

The administration has long accused Iran of meddling in Iraq, providing weapons and training to Shiite fighters with the idea of keeping the United States bogged down in Iraq.

Until now, despite a series of raids in which Iranians have been seized by US forces in Baghdad and other cities in Iraq, administration officials have declined to say whether Bush ordered such actions.

The White House decision to authorize the aggressive steps against Iranians in Iraq appears to formalize the US effort to contain Iran's ambitions to a new front in the long war. Administration officials now describe Iran as the single greatest threat the United States faces in the Middle East. Previously, some administration critics argued the talk about Iran as a threat intended to shift attention away from the chaos in Iraq.

In adopting a more confrontational approach toward Iran, Bush has decisively rejected recommendations of the Iraq Study Group that he explore negotiations with Tehran as part of a new strategy to help quell the sectarian violence in Iraq. AFP

FORMER President Gerald R. Ford (left, inset) lends his support to fellow Republican and presidential candidate Ronald Reagan and running mate George Bush, seen here on the first day of campaigning in Peoria, Ill., in this Nov. 1, 1980 photo.

WORLDBRIEFS

Probe of Polish clergy scandal urged

WARSAW—The Catholic Church leadership of Poland called today for all the country's bishops to be investigated for past ties to the secret police. "We will ask a special commission to check the past of all our bishops," the Council of Bishops' chief, Jozef Michalik, told reporters in Warsaw after the episcopate's 4th Saturday conducted an extraordinary meeting to deal with the scandal of years to hit the church in Poland. It advocated last Sunday when Warsaw's archbishop of Justice, Stanislaw Wielgus, resigned after admitting that he had collaborated with the secret communist-era Security Service, Sluzba Bezpieczenstwa, or Security Service. Many papers digging in the archives of the secret police have followed with reports that other senior clergy were also collaborators. The Rev. Tadeusz Isakowicz-Zaleski, who has researched the subject, is about to come out with a book naming 20 priests, including three bishops, who collaborated with the secret police between 1945 and 1989. AFP

$160M to protect Canada border

WINDSOR, ONTARIO—Canada pledged crucial border security and prosperity initiative, saying it would spend more than C$400 million (US$340 million) over the next five years to protect its border from terrorist, economic and environmental threats. Public Safety Minister Stockwell Day made the announcement on Friday at the Canada-US border crossing between Windsor and Detroit, where one-third of the trade between the US and Canada flows. Ambassador David Wilkins and Canada's counterpart Day shuttled in daily trade between the North American countries' economic zone. The Ambassador Bridge at Windsor, Ontario, handles the Detroit River. "I am concerned that, because my American friends where I reminded them that the trade that comes across the Ambassador Bridge in Detroit is greater than all of the trade that exists between the United States and Japan," Day told reporters yesterday. Security measures have long affected the flow of commerce between Canada's east and west. C$1 are border with the United States, particularly since the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001. Conservative Prime Minister Stephen Harper pledged earlier he was elected nearly a year ago to strengthen the frontier between the world's largest trading partners, including these new security measures and eventually setting Canada's border guards. AP

New Bangladesh government chief

DHAKA—The head of the new interim government in Bangladesh began work Saturday to end a bitter impasse between the two main political parties that has led to repeated elections and a state of emergency. Economist Fakhruddin Ahmed, who is considered politically neutral, was sworn in as chief of the interim government Friday, replacing President Iajuddin Ahmed, who stepped aside as the caretaker after late Thursday. The former governor of Bangladesh central bank, whose most recent job was head of the government's microfinance department, now faces the uphill task of winning the trust of all political parties and persuading them to take part in rescheduled elections. AFP

2 Indon women die of bird flu

JAKARTA—TWO INDONESIAN women have died of bird flu, a health ministry official said on Saturday, taking the overall human death toll from the disease in the country to 81, amid a spike of new cases.

A 27-year-old woman from south Jakarta died after entering Persahabatan Hospital in the capital on Thursday for treatment, Muhammad Nadirin of the health ministry's bird flu information center said. She died on the same day, while a 29-year-old resident she was found here in center with sick fowl, he said. "A week before she got sick, there had been dead chickens near her home."

The second death was of a 32-year-old woman from Tangerang west of Jakarta, who died in the early hours of Saturday, the official said. Reuters

At UN China, Russia cast rare veto against US on Burma

UNITED NATIONS—CHINA AND Russia on Friday vetoed a US resolution calling on Burma's military junta to stop persecution of minority and opposition groups, foiling the measure in the UN Security Council.

The vote was 9-5 in favor of the resolution, with three abstentions. It was one of the negative votes since then permanent members with veto rights.

Both Russia and China, which had not cast a double veto since 1972, made the point the United Nations is not the place for UN jurisdiction carefully. They argued that human rights violations were not the purview of the Security Council unless they endangered regional or international peace and security, which Burma (also known as Myanmar) did not.

"Those votes of my partners also marked some inroads in the course of this entire process," Jan. 12th UN ambassador Vitaly Churkin, said. China's envoy, Wang Guangya, said reporters the United States acted like it was the only permanent council member.

South Africa also voted "no," while Qatar, Indonesia and Congo-Brazzaville abstained. Ruling with Washington were Britain, which cosponsored the draft, France, Belgium, Italy, Ghana, Peru, Panama and Slovakia.

In support of the failed resolution, pressure from the United States and Britain, Burma's Nobel Peace Prize winner Aung San Suu Kyi, under house arrest, addressed the UN ambassador of Burma's foreign policy.

Ibrahim Gambari, head of UN political affairs, visited Burma twice last year and met with exiled lawmaker Aung San Suu Kyi, under house arrest in private. The National League for Democracy won elections in 1990. Reuters

"The people of Burma should not feel abandoned by the UN.

This was an effort to bring the situation to the attention of the world community and to send a clear signal that we have not forgotten you. And we won't forget you," acting US Ambassador Alejandro Wolff told the council.

He argued that refugees were pouring over the border the trafficking of people had increased and AIDS was spreading.

Burma's UN ambassador, Kyaw Tint Swe, said cooperating with the United Nations was the cornerstone of Burma's foreign policy.

Ibrahim Gambari, head of UN political affairs, visited Burma twice last year and met with exiled lawmaker Aung San Suu Kyi, under house arrest in private. The National League for Democracy won elections in 1990. Reuters

DANTE
The face of Italian poet Dante Alighieri, who died some 700 years ago, appears on this combination picture from a reconstruction by sculptors from the University of Bologna, released on...[illegible] and software by Raffaello and Ilaria Mormone. The creator of all-American homicidal words set radical Islamic inside on Dante's shelf by Professor Pablo Fresacro in 1921, the only time it has been removed from its crypt. Fresacro took previous measurements and recently made a plaster model. AP

12th ASEAN SUMMIT

CEBU, PHILIPPINES
10–15 January 2007

Key Concerns that President Arroyo will champion in the 12th ASEAN Summit

The key concerns that President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo will champion during the 12th ASEAN Summit and other top level meetings are near and dear to her vision for the Filipino people. The first priority is a focus on social justice, including care for our God-given natural environment and the protection and welfare of our children. That is why the President has chosen the theme of "One Caring and Sharing Community" for the Summit. The second is the value of deeper regional economic cooperation and integration to expand the country's markets, increase investments and create jobs here at home. This includes a need to care for our overseas workers, create energy independence and self-reliance, and to wipe out the corrosive effects of corruption. Finally, the President is focused on bringing together all nations to fight terrorism, provide for protection of our homeland and bring peace to Mindanao and other trouble spots in the region. ✦

Benefits to RP of GMA leadership in ASEAN

The leadership of President Arroyo in ASEAN and other international forums has directly benefited the people of the Philippines. Through her hard work in the international community, the President has generated investments and jobs, strengthened our security in the fight against terrorism, and improved social justice. The President is bringing these benefits home. The upcoming Leaders' Summits are a direct reflection of this benefits of this President's engagement and the honor and prestige she is bringing to the people of the Philippines through the presence of all leaders in Cebu City. The President is constantly working for a new, more modern Philippines and to eliminate poverty and improve the quality of life of every Filipino. And key to our future success as a nation is our ability to prepare our people to compete and win at home and abroad. To prepare our nation, the President believes that our youths must have every opportunity available to them to succeed. Engagement with other countries introduces all our people, particularly our youths, to the opportunities that the world holds in store for them. The President wants to make sure that our young people must be exposed to the workings of the Summits and the importance of producing new leaders who will guide our great nation in the future. ✦

The Philippines in ASEAN

Since its founding 39 years ago, ASEAN has promoted peace and stability in the region and enhanced sustainable growth among its member countries. Over the years, the Philippines and the Filipino people have benefited from ASEAN's many activities. Because of ASEAN's regional stability, there has been increased investment and tourism flows between the Philippines and its neighbors in the region, and even beyond. On promoting stability, ASEAN supports the Philippines in vital national security questions, notably on the territorial dispute in the South China Sea. ASEAN has been mainly responsible for the emergence of a modus vivendi in the important sea lane among the claimant countries. Indonesia, Malaysia and Brunei Darussalam have also extended crucial assistance for the peace process in Mindanao. They have facilitated peace talks and nourished the spirit of peaceful dialogue leading to the Philippines in the Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC). ASEAN has matured from a mere economic grouping to a key regional organization that has touched the lives of the people in the region, assuring them safety and improving their quality of life. The Philippines has played a key role in ongoing projects of ASEAN that include cooperative projects in the areas of HIV/AIDS, community-based care for the elderly, occupational safety and health, sustainable employment, youth cultural forum, media exchanges, ASEAN university network, social welfare, family and population, and land fire and SARS management. The Philippines also actively participated and even initiated cooperative efforts in the fight against terrorism, poverty sharing, tourism promotion, human resource development, poverty eradication and protection of migrant workers. ✦

6 Dialogue Partners

The City of Cebu, is the provincial capital of Cebu in the Philippines and is the second most important metropolitan center in the country. The City lies on the eastern shore of the island of Cebu and is the oldest City in the country. It is the country's main domestic shipping hub and is home to more than 80% of the country's interisland shipping companies. Cebu is also the main hub, outside of the capital, of international flights into the country and is the most important center of commerce, trade, and industry in the Visayas and Mindanao, the southern parts of the country. It is because of this and other important aspects that Cebu City is dubbed the Queen City of the South. According to the official 2000 census, it has a population of 718, 821 people in 147, 605 households.

Cebu City is the center of a metropolitan area called Metro Cebu, which includes the cities of Mandaue, Lapu-Lapu, and Talisay. Metro Cebu has a total population of more than 2 million people. The Mactan-Cebu International Airport, located in Lapu-Lapu City. To the northeast of the city are Mandaue, the town of Consolacion, to the west are Toledo City and the town of Minglanilla. Across Mactan Strait to the east, is Mactan Island where Lapu-Lapu City is located.

The venues for the Leaders' Meeting and Retreat of the 12th ASEAN Summit and other related Summits are the Mactan Hall of the Shangri-La's Mactan Island Resort and Spa (bottom left) and the Cebu International Convention Center in Mandaue City (bottom right).

One Caring and Sharing Community

Philippines 2007—A strong nation fighting poverty through Filipino excellence and global engagement.

ASEAN 2007—neighbors working for a better world, embracing hope, sharing dreams.

Caring for our God-given natural environment and the protection and welfare of migrant workers.

Sharing energy independence and the collective will to banish corruption, crime and terror.

Caring and Sharing for Peace through interfaith dialogue and cultural understanding.

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WHAT'S INSIDE

■ Pinoy booters fight for life/A25

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■ Dirk powers Mavs/A26

NM, WNM deny raps of fixing matches

NATIONAL MASTERS MOHAMMUD NIGA ADEL alias Milagrosa, as well as the family of WNM Christy Limited Bercades yesterday denied their involvement in the group of three players the National Chess Federation of the Philippines is investigating for game-fixing.

It will be recalled that exactly a week ago, NCFP president Prospero "Bando" Pelaez Jr. revealed that the NCFP is investigating several players for their alleged involvement in the scam dubbed as unbecoming.

"I am never part of game-fixing as unbecoming," said Mhgo, a three-time Olympian and champion of the 2006 Cavalliers Open Chess in Baguio City, Ilocos.

Mhgo, one of the best chess women in the country is an active proponent of the FP Chess Caravan, which was held yesterday in Cabanatuan City led by NCFP director and FP all-time executive champion Atty. Jesse Morato.

Jessie Bercades also denied that his 12-year-old daughter Lianel is involved in the network.

"The game they say was fixed happened only because Atty. Milagrosa, Lianel's opponent's defended this match because he was appointed by facilitating his passport," said Bercades in Filipino, referring to the low win his daughter got in the National Championships.

Winner

"In that game against Dra (Ballester), my daughter won really a winner," Bercades said. He lamented, "How can a player be involved in game-fixing? If that happens then the NCFP should investigate me."

Milagrosa backed Bercades' claim.

"I was really working on my passport to join the Singapore Open," he said in Filipino. "In fact, I wanted to withdraw from the tournament but I wasn't able to let the organizers know in time."

Meanwhile, NCFP chair lawyer Mattias Jo-hannes gave his statement on the ongoing three-hour session.

"Where I saw the president of the NCFP I had already heard of game-fixing in chess but they never mentioned names," he said. "Unlike now where the cheating has become so blatant and sophisticated that the opponent can predetermine the outcome of a tournament. During my time, we investigated an IM and a leading lady player for game-fixing. The ongoing investigation is a central action of the NCFP board."

Revelation

It was just three days ago when PCSO executive director Imelda Samuel Ramos revealed the names of those implicated in game-fixing: International Masters Ronald Dableo and Jan-ario Icdao in the Tenorio City Open last year.

Dableo and Icdao have strong evidence to back-up allegations that Dableo and Icdao intentionally dropped their game against eventual winner IM Oshi Gunta, former also bulsed IM Mark Paragua in the unbecoming scam, although he acknowledged the evidence against the country's highest-ranked player is not that strong.

Dableo, Icdao and Paragua, all members of Team Philippines in last year's Chess Olympiad in Turin, Italy, are currently playing in the 2007 3-0 Asian Zonals in Subic, Bercades, who saw action in the 2004 Phuket Youth Chess Championships, is also entered in the women's division.

Marivic Awitan-Reyes, contributor

Sparks halt Comets' run; Harbour Centre prevails

ALVIN Quiaido of Talk'Tech scores her attack against Harbour Centre defenders in their game yesterday. Quiaido and the Titans, however, came up short against the Port Masters. JOAN

By Jurdan M. Pajo

TOYOTA OTIS FIGURED OUT THE FORMULA to subdue Mail and Moore's seemingly unstoppable form in the PBL Silver Cup.

Stalking an iron-fisted defense and a red-zone defensive adjustment, Toyota Otis frustrated Mail and Moore's before an outright semifinal berth with an 81-75 triumph yesterday at the Ohlmore College Sports Center.

With the win, the Sparks conquered the vaunted six-game run—the longest sweeping streak this conference. But the more in the first was that it put the Sparks in celebration for an outright semifinal berth only a 6-3 record.

Continuing his recent strong performances, Pamela Caballero posted in a game-high 25 points to lift the Sparks to their third straight win. Another strong-arm might for in the second half to finish with 19 markers.

"I attribute it to our transition defense in the third quarter," said Sparks coach Lester Alas. "We made our little adjustments in the first half we used a half court [zone], that in the second half we use them mid-court."

Despite missing the chance to clinch the semifinal slot last Thursday night, the Comets closed out their elimination campaign with a 7-7 card—enough for at least a playoff berth for a final four ticket.

Aside from Toyota Otis, Hotshot Mobi (6-2) and Master-PCU (6-3) remain in contention for the berth. The given to the top two teams at the end of the classification phase.

Harbour Centre also missed in the running after a 93-83 double overtime victory over Talk'Tech in the second game capped the down at 2-8.

PC held their own points in the last five minutes to finish with a game-high 27 markers.

"At least we still have a chance to the semis, this is Gretel's breakout game," said coach Jorge Gallent after a fourth straight win.

Ilan Valenzuela tallied one for Titans with a triple in the last 5.7 seconds of regulation to forge overtime at 61.

The Titans forced another extra period when Al Magpayo nailed a three-pointer with 4.6 seconds left for a 75-75 deadlock.

Caballero, who came off an 18-point performance versus Otis, set the time in bringing down the league's frontrunners.

The victory paved their 13 points in the opening minutes to lead the Sparks, 20-12, advantage early in the second period.

And it looked like that the pressure got the better of the league-leading Comets.

From a 46-30 halftime edge, the Sparks zoomed to a 56-44 lead in the Comets started the second half with sweet rainmaker and turnovers.

Scorers:

Toyota Otis

TOYOTA OTIS (6)—Caballero 25, Adora 19, Quiaido 9, Abad 7, Abrot 5, Ocol 5, Dedoroy 4, Jacob 3, Valen 2, Rodriguez 2, Figueroa 2, Bonifacio

HARBOUR CENTRE (5)—Ilan 21, Lucero 18, Arao 11, Alcazar 10, Capili 8, Andrada 6, Virgen 6, Cardona 5, Nuyannes 2, Sampang 2, Gotladera, Pelgueira 2, Ilan 0.

TALK'TECH (8)—Magpayo 20, Valenzuela 19, Ochavo 14, Lebrasco 7, Delgado 6, Fajardo 5, Gamboa 3, Lumagui 2, Concha 2, Capco 2, Sar 1, Jimenez, Mercader.

Quarters: 22-12, 32-31, 51-38, 61-61 (reg.), 75-75 (OT), 83-93 (2OT)

PSC says grassroots sports stay

By Jane Navarro

THE PHILIPPINE SPORTS COMMISsion vowed not to neglect the development of athletes on the grassroots level, renewed focus to consider sports.

PSC chair William "Bando" Ramirez yesterday said the government agency would not cut grassroots programs for greatest, saying that it would play a crucial role in the search for medal potentials in the Olympics.

And, according to the Fastest Team Philippines chef de mission in the Doha Asian Games and 2008 Manila Southeast Asian Games, it could be done by collaborating closely with local government units.

"We cannot augment the capacity of the grassroots programs without the help of the LGUs," said Ramirez. "Collaborating with the LGUs could help the PSC and the POC (Philippine Olympic Committee) discover talents in the countryside."

The PSC and the POC have been setting up a long-term program aimed at capturing the country's first-ever gold medal in the Olympics.

So far, 14 sports are identified as medal potentials in the 2008 Beijing Olympiad. At most 10 athletes from these disciplines would be chosen to train overseas for the gold-medal quest.

The POC will link up its talent identification program next month with the Philippine Olympic Festival, a three-leg regional multi-event tournament that will culminate in a national championships on the end of the year.

"The idea is to discover talents on a wider reach and develop them so that the current crop of national athletes will have somebody whom they could pass the baton on," said Ramirez.

RAMIREZ

PVF to spike up beach volleyball

PASCUA (foreground) and Rivera. BANNO

By Mari Anchesca Reyes

A COUNTRY KNOWN FOR THE POWERsmash becomes that can accurately coordinate and an almost year-round tropical climate should have no trouble finding a venue to patch-break volleyball superiority.

But the Philippine Volleyball Federation is eyeing a natural resources of the beautiful land. Talented young players who can form a deep pool.

PVF secretary general Ote Camangian said development of beach volleyball will be one of their priorities this year after the sport reached new heights over the past two years.

"It is early to speculate and doesn't cost too much because you only have two players," said Camangian. "But more than that, we have big potential of winning internationally."

The Philippines' bench hopes to get a piece of the Olympic action as they attempt to join several legs in the World Tour.

Camangian said there are 13 legs in the Tour, and some of these will be the qualifying for the Beijing Games next year. He said they already have several connections from the Philippine Sport Commission to finance the trips.

By 2008, PVF hopes to host one leg of the Asian beach volleyball circuit with a hope of getting some private support.

The country's beach volley tandem of Heidi Bautista and Diane Ramos furnished life in the sport when they competed in the sandy court during the 2005 Southeast Asian Games.

The Filipino-American duo also reached the quarterfinal of the tough Doha Asian Games five last year, while the men's team landed 13th of 24 competitors.

Right now, Camangian said, Bautista and Ramos are competing in Down Zealand on their own expense as they still look for private sector to headed them campaigns overseas.

Barako battle tired Realtors today

By Macong R. Castillo

ABELTODAY Solaire debuts Intheory
8:00 a.m.—Pembroke vs. Sth 'K' Inn
9:00 a.m.—Mr. Lemon's Heat Inn

OF ALL THE TEAMS IN THE Table 'A' Inter-Philippines Cup quarterfinals, it seems that Sta. Lucia is the only one counting into the round with a disadvantage.

Coming off four tough games in an eight-day stretch and injuries hounding key men, the Realtors clash with a well-rested Red Bull side at the start of their action tonight, with Barako coach Yeng Guiao lamenting fall well less to attack his foes.

"Talento-wise, I think it's fairly even," Guiao told the inquirer over the phone yesterday. "But then (Jerry) Codinera will be coming off a grueling schedule and a bruised-for ankle (an one) it is a big..."

Said some reporters (to their players) make it a huge advantage for us," he added. "I think, in the end, Bodner hop will prevail."

Eliminations is 6:30 p.m. at the Araneta Coliseum in Cubao, and Guiao did not hide his excitement in playing for the first time in three weeks.

"Anyway we sge ang mga bata, eh," (The players are getting restless) Guiao said.

Meanwhile, Purefoods and 'Silk 'N Clen square up their separate series at 4:00 p.m. with defending champions Diordeo Giants' match Ryan Gregorio labelling the series "I highly anticipated."

"We are the smallest team playing the biggest team," Gregorio said over the phone. "But honestly, I am excited because of the challenge of having to play such a huge team."

"This series will be won on the ground and not up there," he added. "We will come up with a lot of surprises because we're ready to compete though we're small and we have the championship experience."

Both series are must-victories affairs with the winners of the Red Bull-Sta. Lucia match-up advancing to the semifinals while the loser of the Purefoods-TNT pairing meeting Barangay Ginebra in best-of-seven semifinal series.

Guiao also admitted to being impressed with Kelly Williams, but believes that the 6-foot-7 Filipino-American, being a rookie, still does not have the consistency that would spell the difference for the Realtors in the series.

"He (Williams) brilliance is not yet consistent," Guiao said. "Like last (Friday) night, they played him for 48 minutes (in a 114-116 overtime victory over the Express), and it could be an overuse of body.

"Plus, we intend to make him play defense," Guiao added.

Meanwhile, Barako Bull forward Jojo Lastimosa is playing only below-par, Lastimosa sprained his knee after a game night and Kenneth Duremdes, the 1996 Most Valuable Player, followed his left ankle on what could ultimately go down as a "costly" victory over Sta.Li.

KELLY Williams impression

Shanine shocks Lim, carries on family tradition

By Marc Anthony Reyes

THE LONG LINE OF TENNIS CHAMPIONS runs through Shanine Dizon's veins.

She left no doubt about it yesterday after pulling the rug from under top-seeded Sarah Jane Lim, 6-4, 5-4, 6-4, to charge into the girls' 16-under finals of the 18th Soderish Cup age group championships at the Rizal Memorial Tennis Center.

The youngest daughter of former Philippine Lawn Tennis Association chief and former Paranaque mayor Bibit Dizon, and sister to Southeast Asian Games gold medalist Shanine showed everybody with her sturdy serves to turn back the tournament favorite.

Shanine will face Lim for the title against fifth-seeded Maria Regina Santiago, who bundled out second seed Marilou Dela, 6-3, 2-0, after Dela suffered illness on her feet.

The 13-year-old Dizonite, studying at the Brent International School, had earlier made the 24-under finals after a 6-0, 6-0 triumph over No. 8 Jacinta Nguyen. She will face Lim in the top category after a 6-0, 6-2 semifinal win over fourth seed Jasmine Tan Sy.

"I'm happy to be in the finals and I hope to do my best to win," said the youngster who came to the tournament unseeded.

Fourth seed Gracielle Paulino of Olongapo City stunned top seed Abbie de Guzman, 6-4, 6-2, to advance in the 12-under finals against unseeded Marian Jade Capadocia of Subic, Zambales.

Capadocia prevailed over Gracielle Paulino, 6-2, 6-0.

Santiago also made it to the 18-under division final after beating Mary Grace Ritney, 6-1, 6-1. She will face the winner of the other semifinal between top seed Trudy Anonuevo and unseeded Sarah Jane Lim.

Santiago, 16, carries more experience over Oliveros. And the spunky netter is supposed to flash the swinging strike fire that enabled her to overhaul the Bree net outlook against the top-seeded yesterday.

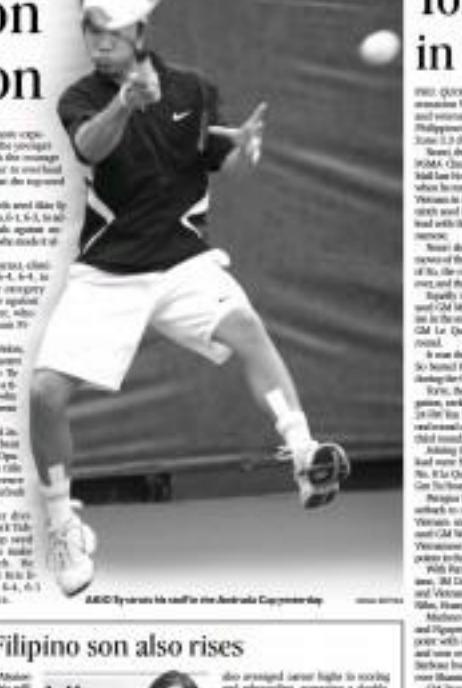
In the boys's division, fourth seed Alex Ty trounced No. 8 Mirlo Ignacio, 6-1, 6-3, to advance to the 18-under finals against unseeded Arkenwick Lingo, who made it after unseeded Lingo, who made it after unseeded losers.

Third seed Kim Jose Santos, classmated top seed Alex Ty 6-4, 6-4, to reach the boys' 16-under category earning a shot at the 18-be against No. 8 Jose Lorenzo Serrao, who won over unseeded Jose Jonathan Del Rego, 6-3, 6-2.

In the boys' 14-under division, second seed Leander Lazaro trounced fourth seed Theo Tolentino, 6-3, 6-4, to emerge a finalist at the 12-under finals against unseeded seed Jose Alfonso Villarico.

Boys' 12-under top seed Jacob Lagman of Cebu City beat third seed Juan Alfonso Opulencia, 6-1, 6-2, to bag a title duel against unseeded Jasmine Mendoza, who won by default over Steve Salas.

In the junior 10-under division, third seed Vince Mark Tabanao of Cebu ripped top seed Peter Jalao, 6-0, 6-3, to make the championship match. He will take on second seed Rick Ivanne Jr., who scored a 6-4, 6-1 victory over Isabela Ortaiz.


AKIO Ty scores his end in the Soderish Cup yesterday

So, Nouri, Torre up in Zonals

PHU QUOC, BIEN GIANG, VIETNAM—Teen sensation Sandey Ico, rising star Ismael Sinsot and veteran Eugene Torre held sway for Team Philippines after three rounds of the Asian Zone 3.3 chess championships here.

Sinsot, the highest-placed Filipino in the recent PSMA Chess Challenge held at the Insular Life Grounds, grounded the biggest surprise when he stunned third seeded GM Jose Daniel Bay of Vietnam in the second round then drew with ninth seed IM Bui Vinh of Vietnam to share the lead with the 13-year-old Ico, Torre and host Vietnamese.

Sinsot shocked Bay (his 2399) after only 30 moves of the Colle opening to reach the 2.5 points of Ico, the country's youngest national champion ever, and the 55-year-old Torre.

Equally impressive was Ico, who stunned top seed GM Mark Paragua in 36 moves of the Sicilian in the second round and drew with No. 8 seed GM Le Quang Liem of Vietnam in the third round.

It was the second time in three meetings that Ico bested Paragua following an earlier triumph during the CSIS elimination.

Torre, the next senior to the 11-time GP champion, cracked up bank on back victories over No. 24 the Bui Thai Bao Tung of Vietnam in the second round and No. 10 IM Oliver Dimalibot in the third round.

Joining the three Filipino players in the early lead were No. 7 seed Nguyen Ngoc Truong Son, No. 9 Le Quang Liem, No. 9 Hai Vinh and No. 12 Ge Tuchong Thang.

Paragua bounced back from the second-round setback to subdue No. 25 FM Pham Quang of Vietnam and lead three other Filipinos, second GM Wyne Zaw Htun of Myanmar and four Vietnamese in eighth to 16-th places with two points to their rounds.

With Paragua and Htun were GM Nelson Mariano, IM Darwin Laylo and NM Oliver Barbosa and Vietnamese Nguyen, Anh Hung, Vho Thanh Hien, Hoang Cuoc Hoan and Nguyen Huy.

Mariano drew with Htun in the second round and Nguyen in the third round. Laylo halved the point with Australian Hoanmuguen of Singapore and won over Ngo Ngoc Quang of Vietnam, and Barbosa bounced to GM Le Quang Liem but outwitted Nguyen.

GM Rogelio Antonio Jr., the country's second highest-rated player with an 18-of 2251, settled for two more draws against Nguyen Thien Viet and Vuu Thanh Bi to remain in a tie for 17th to 24th places with only 1.5 points.

Also with 1.5 points were Bendelling, team-Gomez but IM Bernadi Tadiosa and NM Ariston Bautista.

NM Marlon Bernardino

Sinulog Open starts Jan. 17

A TIGHT TITLE FIGHT LOOMS WHEN THE National Chess Federation of the Philippines holds the Bay Prospect Pichay 21-Sinulog Open chess championship on Jan. 17-20 at the Action Coliseum in Cebu City.

Join the country's leading players who are competing in the Asian Zonals in Vietnam, there are no clear favorites for the P50,000 top purse plus finely crafted trophy.

"The NCFP is very happy to hold this tournament in Cebu as part of the annual feeding celebrations," said Atty. Pichay, who is proponent and organizer the opening f the tournament.

"The battle for top honors will be a wide open race this time in the absence of the country's leading players," said tournament director Gene Carreda.

The tournament will involve P50,000, the three) player P30,000 and the fourth player P15,000. The 5th to 10th players will receive P5,000 each, while the 11th to 20th players will get P2,000 each.

The top three female players and top three kiddie players will earn P3,000, P2,000 and P1,000, respectively.

A total cash prize of P200,000 is at stake in the seven-being jointly promoted by the NCFP and Asia Pharmacy of humanitarian-sportsman Bonjet Ike.

For inquiries, call/text Carreda at 0928-7132997 or Alvarez Bautista at 09-16-4232231.

NM Marlon Bernardino, correspondent

Bobby Parks' Filipino son also rises

I GOT TWO INTERESTING LETTERS to my e-mail yesterday one from San Francisco-based player agent Bobby Nino, the other from Henry Abes, professor and CEO of gamefloor.ph, a website aiming to build a corporation as the bible of Philippine amateur basketball.

...

Until I got this letter from Bobby, I did not realize that the son of Bobby Parks and Filipino wife Elaine is now all grown-up and has taken after his father in terms of basketball skills. Miko Bobby Parks, who wasn't age but I figure he must be 14 or 15 years old now.

"Before it leaks out, I just want to let you know about Boy Parks, son of Bobby whose mother is Marie from Cebu," Bobby wrote in his usually cryptic. Boy was featured in the Philippine Television Showcase, which is definitely big-time. He is the top Grade 8 player in Memphis and was voted 'Boy' most likely to be in the NBA by his classmates. He is 6-0 now but is expected to grow to 6-5 or 6-6 by the time he graduates from high school. He is also a straight-A student. Boy is the only son of Bobby Parks and Filipina wife Elaine. Boy is now in the 8th grade at Memphis and was voted 'Most likely to be in the NBA'

Nat'l Pro-Am reset to pave way for Open

THE MANILA MIMOSA NATIONAL PRO-AM Golf Championship has been moved to Feb. 7-11, apparently to avoid conflicts.

This was done in lieu of the Philippine Open, whose sudden staging on Feb. 1-4 is noticed to be organized to include a Pro-Am on Jan. 31-Feb. 3.

"In the spirit of sportsmanship, we are moving our tournament to different weeks for the Philippine Open," said Baldomero R. Bautos, the US Bar boss he who is chair of the executive committee of the Manila Mimosa Pro-Am. "I thank our partners in the Pro-Am from Japan for their graciousness and understanding in this matter. In the end, we hope to postpone no one."

Bautos also said he fully understood the concerns of the Philippine Open, which is now being run by the Asian Tour in agreement with the National Golf Association of the Philippines.

The Celebrity Tournament of the Manila Mimosa Pro-Am has also been moved from Jan. 30 to Feb. 6, with Toyota Motor Philippines donating six teams, Toyota's namesake model, at a hole-in-one prize through TMP's first ever president Daniel SH. Inda.

The Pro-Am also will also be divided in a hole-in-one prize through TMP's first ever president Daniel SH. Inda.

"Mimosa Boys made many people happy with the games," said Gomez, Bautos Deputy for L, chair of the organizing committee.

Alice Andrade, the MGAF tournament chairperson for Southern Luzon's event from Feb. 7-9 to March 23-24 in Rizal's Wa. Batangas Club.

Several Lacuna has confirmed that 30 Tagaytay, for amateur partners in running the last three editions of the event, has taken a leave of absence from his schooling to be the US to defend their crown at "The Brown's League in Ubing, Cavite.

For details, call 525-6987 and 524-0146 (MGAF) and (NMC) 414-2000 (The Terrace).

FILIPINO Emelio Caligdong tries to dribble his way out of trouble against the Malaysian defense Thursday night.

Olympic scouting in place

By Hans Anthony Reyes

THERE WILL BE OBSERVING CORRESPONDENT IN the country's quest for its first Olympic gold medal. As silver or under.

Each of the team going through the Olympic training program will have a designated videotaper whose main task is recording all possible opponents who could get in the way of the Filipino Olympic dreams.

Philippine Sports Commission chair Butch Ramirez issued the edict to existing plans in order to make it to "scientific and effective" as possible.

"We are enough that we know the capabilities of the Filipino athlete," according to Ramirez, "we also have to know what our opponents are capable of doing."

That's what the arrangement will be once the national teams are scattered around the world for training and competitions.

"For example, when among the Koreans is the strongest possible contender for the taekwondo gold," added Ramirez. "We will take pains to follow his training, understand his fighting techniques and hopefully decrease his weaknesses."

That same set-up will be followed in 11 other disciplines like boxing, archery, track and field, swimming, diving, gymnastics, weightlifting, lawn tennis, shooting, fencing and wushu, a specialization in the Beijing Olympics.

The Olympic training program, to be headed by Rizal Memorial Mike Arcuwill have a team to document each training camp and competition the olympic-bound athletes will take part in.

Arvin Weach until the 2008 Games, their findings will be used to chart the course the Philippines is going to take in its drive toward its Olympic gold.

Pinoy booters fight for life

BANGKOK—THE PHILIPPINES' SOCcer in the Asean Football Championships seems to turn for the worse by the day here.

Still reeling from a 4-0 thrashing at the hands of Malaysia, the Philippines suffered another huge blow, following the announcement of skipper and top scorer Aly Borromeo that he will be missing the remainder of the tournament.

An impacting stopper on opponents' attacking third and a scoring threat on set pieces, the 5-foot-11 Borromeo will be out for at least two months due to an MRI, opinion that he sustained in the lead up to Malaysia's first goal right minutes into their 4-0 loss in Group A Friday at the Supachalasai Stadium.

But more than his defensive presence and his scoring ability, it will be the fact FC that's the absence that will be sorely missed on the pitch.

Coach Ani Caddi has challenged his players to raise their games a notch to fill the void left by Borromeo, the named XI player after Filipino-American Henry Bruton's entire games due to an illness or an injury. Bruton skipped the Malaysia match because of sleep.

Caddi attributed Borromeo's injury to the poor condition of the pitch. "I think the pitch condition should be reconsidered," said Borromeo after the game against Malaysia.

For the man-vote encounter against Thailand at 8 tonight, Caddi plans to use eighteen Anton-Jil Rosario at central defense Jonde Bagatti Jubilan, while Jerome Orcullo, an assured substitute in the first game, and striker Ian Bakstad may assume Dan Borromeo's position.

"The team [against Malaysia] was unrecognizable. We did not expect that result but we have to leave it behind us now," assistant coach Marlon Maro said at the pre-match conference yesterday.

The Thais, who needed a last-gasp equalizer from young midfielder Sarchan Namsom to salvage a 1-1 draw with Myanmar, are also planning to bounce back in the second outing later tonight's match.

"Definitely we will not waste good players," said assistant coach Sompol Chamchan. "The Philippines showed poor technique against Malaysia." —Gerald P. Rapar

Almeda rules Ironman moto race

AL JACOB on his BMW R1200 GS Adventure

JOEY ALMEDA, ABOARD A BMW R1200 GS Adventure, logged the fastest time of 11 hours and 59 minutes on the 14 Ironman Motorcycle Rally which ended at the Clark Rizal in Clark Field, Pampanga, recently.

What made the feat more impressive was the fact that the veteran motocross and motorcross, who also normal the bronze speed of 230kph, was running a fractured rib cage he sustained from an endurance race contraption a week earlier.

The race, patterned after the Iron Butt Motorcycle Rally in the United States, and organized by the BMW Owners Society, took the riders on a northern Luzon loop with the first required leg in checkpoint at Tagaytay.

After the kickoff, doing the rode-start located at Laong, Bataan with the final checkpoint finish was at the Clark Multi-purpose Pampanga.

Second Gerald Cruz was logged in by Pinoy Rosario, president of the BMW Owners Society, aboard a BMW R1200 GS Adventure. Participants came in tied with Ian Yatulis Bt. 10 the 22 participants, 17 riders finished within the allotted 24-hour time for the 1,200-km journey.

The first rider took off at 4 a.m. Monday from the Shell Diesel Station along Edsa. followed by other riders at five-minute intervals.

There were no mishaps or spills that marred the event, although two of those who did not finish the race (DNF) decided to make a stopover in Tagaytay while the other rider dropped out due to exhaustion.

The riders and guests were treated to lunch at the residence of Noel Bocaya, BOD member, at his house on Subic, Pampanga.

Bocaya also announced that this would be an annual event.

SPORTSWATCH

US champ joins SJC Int'l Derby

US CHAMPION DRIVING SIXTH LEAGUE HAS GROUP OF FOREIGN DRIVERS who will compete in the SJC Int'l Grand International Derby on Jan. 22-24 and 28 at the Star Dust Endurance Circuit in Jose del Monte, Bulacan. Carol Reynolds, the reigning champion of the Interclub Grand Prix Championship, is the leading contender of the lineup of the international event which has a winning percentage of seven-to-one favorite. Reynolds, from Arkansas, revealed that his current fighters will be fielded in partnership with Hans Kinder of Nagoya. Contestants Pompeyo Gallardo, Jacob Bruno Gonzalez, Jeff Hedquist, Boyd Coddington, Jerry Phillips, Rod Gilly, Michael Andretti, Richard Lattner, Jerry Douglas, Travis and Tony Pedras will also be competing. Team Top Gun Racing Team Manager Mike Jones, Emilio San Juan, Ric de Guzman and Pierre Phillips of California. The contest boasts a guaranteed purse of P6 million. Call 733-6000 and 720-6000.

PCAP submission of weights today

TODAY IS THE DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF WEIGHTS TO THE PHILIPPINE CYCLING Association of the Philippines (PCAP) Pro-Am Derby at the Makati Coliseum. The event starts tomorrow with more than 70 fights. A total of 12 matches will be participated by PCAP and Team Cycle-Asia riders, in the matches for the P60,000 Cruiser of P40,000 Super Welterweight, 70 and 75 kilos. Other matches are the PCAP Featherweight, Bantamweight, Super Cycle Riders with 55, 60, 65 and 70 and Senior Men with 55, 60, 65, 70 and 75 kilos. Registration of the derby will start at 8 a.m. tomorrow. For inquiries, call 806-3616 and 806-6476.

Cuenta cockfest stakes P1 million

THE 2006 TWIN DERBY CHAMPIONSHIP, CONSISTING OF THE SABONG MAYOR'S CUP Derby for the Filipino Pro-Cock Breeders Derby on Jan. 27, Feb. 2, 3, 7, 9 and 12, Aurora Heritage Hotel and CPCC operator Tom Mendoza, this week is designated for cockpit eliminations, handicapped and basis participant members. Eliminations are using the cock P3,500. The total guaranteed purse amounts to P1 million. Elimination matches (1-cock) will be held on Jan. 14, Feb. 2, 3, 7 and 9. All qualifiers here are entitled for the derby on Feb. 12. As for now, the featured main championship will be a brand new match at the Tagaytay Coliseum for the derby will start on the P80,000 Cruiser Division, the CPCC Featherweight, Super Cock Riders with P120,000 as for prize. More info on Jan. 20. For details, call 880-2234, 240-0876 or 0908-8746171 (Emerald) and 0919-8800100 (Don Jose).

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DJANGO BUSTAMANTE

GANDY VALLE

DERBY CLASSIC
Django, Gandy bolster title drive

FORMER WORLD NO.1 PEAR shooter "Django" Bustamante and compatriot Gandy Valle boosted their respective tournament yesterday to remain in the title hunt of the 2007 Derby City Classic Cue 9-Ball Invitational being held at the Executive Hotel Hotel in Louisville, Kentucky.

Bustamante, best runner World 9-ball champion Ralf Souquet of Germany, Lorenzo Armenteros Hike Davis of the United States and Valle slipped consecutive four "Amang" Bersos en the eight-ball round.

Carrying the colors of Pistol Sports outfit, Bustamante, who took a bye in the first round beat Ralf Wall, Randy Medenes, Barry Bonny, Gerfael Glinka, Thomas Reinalda and Jozef Hoek, respectively, to score his 11th win over in the round 10-10,000-plus series.

Gerfael, who both beat Dennis Orcollo and playing for Team Dan Diamonds, on the other hand, downed Jerry Childress, Chad Banister, Jeff Lauer, David Cockrell, Ray Shirley, Ronnie Wiseman and Mike Eisenhower, in Chic order.

Valle, another pride of Davao City and playing for Team Dan Diamonds, on the other hand, downed Jerry Childress, Chad Banister, Jeff Lauer, David Cockrell, Ray Shirley, Ronnie Wiseman and Mike Eisenhower, in Chic order.

Rodolfo "Boy Samson" Luat, also from he visible, bowed to David Bronnow but won in all plays in his single elimination format by using his Bye option along with Banica.

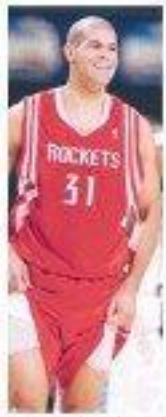
Dennis Orcollo, winner of two Ring Game events, suffered back to back loses at the hands of Chester Bryant and Toni Soto world champion Johnny Archer of the United States in the semi-final and eight-round.

Hall of Famer Efren "Bata" Reyes, who topped the One Pocket event and finished runner up to the 9-ball Banks division, lost to Bobby Parker in the fourth and Buddy Hall in the sixth round.

Darren Southgate, a native of Shrewsbury, Quebec also went lost to Dennis Burger in the second round but did not set his foot in option to the mid-round. Marlon Bernardino, center fielder

TORRE BACKER: Fourteen Construction Corp. is supporting Grandmaster Rogene Torre, its vice president, in his international campaign. Torre handcuffs GrandRigs down Holding Corp. president Jeffrey Diaz one of Fourteen's finished homebuyers. With them are Wanted Lito Rigos and Romeo de Guzman, Fourteen president and Sales & Marketing manager, respectively.

Sunday SPORTS
Editor Teddyboy S. Molmisa



DIFFERENT reactions. same result. Shane Battier smiles after sinking a big triple for the Houston Rockets while Ray Allen screams in delight after draining a clutch 3-pt. for the Seattle Supersonics.

THE Lakers' Kenny Thomas scores on a dunk.

Fun has pretty much stopped for 76ers

NEW YORK—THEY GOT A TRIP TO Europe for training camp, then went their first three games of the NBA regular season.

The fun pretty much stopped right around there for the Philadelphia 76ers.

What followed was a difficult two-month stretch that included the trade of Allen Iverson and the season-ending injury of Chris Webber. Considered a team that was just big enough to make some noise in the East, Philadelphia's players had been overconfident and those who were supposed to be their team leaders and best all-around players—and that one sometimes includes coach Jim Lynam—were not.

"It's pretty hard," coach Maurice Cheeks said. "It's pretty difficult if you've been around a guy for a while and you've developed some friendships with some guys. It's not an easy thing."

Little has been an easy day in Philadelphia. The 76ers have the worst record in the Eastern Conference and, following their win over the New York Knicks Tuesday, they are one of three Eastern Conference teams that have lost more than 20 games. Only Seattle and Golden State have fewer victories than the 76ers.

Now, it's up to players such as Andre Iguodala, Samuel Dalembert and Kyle Korver.

"We've done a real overhaul in this team," Korver said. "And you know, it's been the custom these months. There's no one reflecting on what's happened."

There's not much room's remembering. The 76ers had a chance to bond during their trip to Spain and Germany for training and exhibition games, and went 3-0 after losing defending champion Miami on Nov. 3.

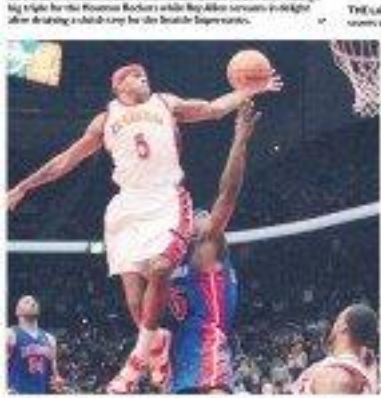
But not long after that, Cheeks seemed to lose confidence in Webber and began cutting his playing time in the final 8 minutes. The coaching team around the reserving, and a benched Iverson ended up the leading scorer with those 20 seasons in Philadelphia.

That forced Sixers players to deal with issues of role changes—and whether guys seeing their own names included. Even Cheeks hasn't been immune—the recent hiring of former coach Larry Brown as executive vice president sparked speculation that he eventually would replace Cheeks as the coach.

But Cheeks said the players have remained focused on the court through their turbulent times.

"They just continued to go out and play," he said. "I don't think they focus in on that, they just went out and played and did not involved about the other stuff because they couldn't control it anyway."

AP



ATLANTA reaper Josh Smith soars high for a block against a shot by Detroit swingman Ronald Murray. Murray, however, got a break when a foul was called on forward Sheldon Williams, who fell to the ground at the contact.

Dirk powers Mavs

German ace scores 43; Allen fires 54

INDIANAPOLIS—GERMAN star Dirk Nowitzki scored eight of his season-high 43 points in overtime as the Dallas Mavericks posted a 115-113 win over the Indiana Pacers.

Jason Terry contributed 30 points, including the go-ahead jumper with 37 seconds left in overtime for Dallas, which won Friday for the 14th time in 17 games.

Nowitzki added 10 for rebounds with 2:01 left in regulation after leaving his top.

But after a timeout, he returned to the floor and overreacted to his teammate for the Pacers.

"I think I hit [J.O.] Harrington or scratched [Harrington in his] chest off my pick," Nowitzki said. "I felt a little bringe and went off to keep hip. But it seemed to loosen everything into the overtime."

In an overtime that featured eight lead changes, Nowitzki drilled a jumper, a 3-pointer and two free throws after Harrington split two free throws with two seconds left for a 115-113 lead, since the Pacers were unable to get off a final shot.

In Atlanta, Joe Johnson scored 24 points, and Josh Smith, just back from hernia surgery, hit a 3-pointer with 10.7 seconds left to break the Hawks' hold of the Detroit Pistons, 99-95.

Johnson finished 11-of-17 from the field, making four from 3-point range. Smith, operation Dec. 26, scored only five points in 21 minutes but looked strong at the end.

Al Horford added 16 points and 10 rebounds. He recorded most in franchise history, and the Superstars wrapped a six-game losing streak with a 122-114 overtime win over the Utah Jazz.

Allen made nearly every shot in the closing moments of regulation and overtime, earning the Knicks to their first victory since Dec. 31 against Boston. Allen was 17-for-32 from the field, a perfect 12-for-12 at the stripe and added 13 rebounds.

In Los Angeles, Kobe Bryant finished by a game streak, scored 35 of his 28 points in the final 6:16 and found Smush Parker had a career-high 26 points, leading the Lakers past the Golden State Kings, 109-106.

In Denver, Nene Hilario scored 25 points, including 12 in the fourth quarter, and Houston held off the Nuggets, 96-90, for its eighth win in nine games. AFP, AP

GAME IN NUMBERS

Dallas (115): Nowitzki 43, Terry 30, Howard 11, Stackhouse 10, Dunleavy 9, Harris 6, Diop 4, Van Exel 2, Nelson 0, Buckner 0, Kaman 0, Bass 0, Mahorn 0, Mobley 0, Totals 41-103 39-46 115.

Indiana (113): Jackson 24, Harrington 23, Foster 15, Jones 14, Tinsley 12, Ratliff 8, Diogu 7, Williams 6, Graham 4, Totals 41-93 27-32 113.

Dallas 25 23 23 24 10 — 115
Indiana 25 28 23 24 13 — 113

Beckham: It's soccer, not Hollywood

MALIBU, SEC. MTL, CALIFORNIA—DAVID Beckham's focus will be on the Los Angeles pitch, not the Hollywood spotlight.

Forgetting for the moment that Beckham's wife, Victoria, is a former Spice Girl, that they rank Tom Cruise and Katie Holmes among their best friends, and that one of Los Angeles' premiere talent agencies negotiated his new contract with Major League Soccer's Galaxy, Beckham is hoping to concentrate on soccer.

"The coming there not to be a superstar," the 31-year-old Beckham said Friday via satellite from Madrid, Spain. "I'm coming there to be part of the team, to work hard and to hopefully score things.

"With me, it's about football. I'm coming there to make a difference. I'm coming there to play football."

Beckham said he hopes to work with tennis superstar Andre Agassi and help attract more soccer fans to the Galaxy.

He's joining a team in Major League Soccer, considered one of both leagues by fans in the most famous soccer countries around the world.

"I'm not saying we coming over to the States is going to make soccer the biggest sport in America. That would be difficult to achieve," Beckham said. "Football, basketball, American football, they've been around.

"But I wouldn't be doing this if I didn't think I could make a difference."

Galaxy general manager Alexi Lalas, who was one of America's best known players, said the decision to sign Beckham "was based on merit."

"At the end of the day, the team needs to win on the field," Lalas said.

Lalas said he did not think Beckham should be blamed for the lack of success by either Real Madrid or England's national team.

Beckham plans to fulfill his contract with Real Madrid before heading for the United States. He is not expected to join the Galaxy, whose MLS season begins in April, until August.

His first year deal with the team, one of three MLS franchises formed by AEG, is believed to be his second $50 million (nearly $2.5 billion) contract. Beckham's first deal, with Real Madrid, was also worth $50 million.

Beckham mentioned that he has watched Gabi Asian play in the World Cup and now he will line up beside him with the Galaxy.

Asian, 26, believes Beckham will have a positive effect on the league.

"I know if I'm running around the field with a David Beckham, I want to impress him," Asian said. "I want him to go, 'Hey, this guy is good.' I think it's going to give us credibility and a good question.

"A lot of people don't have a perspective of how good these guys [in the USA] are," he said.

Though he won't immediately be bolstered to be a in Europe, he has been gaining attention in the United States since the recent "Bend It Like Beckham."

Beckham said his wife and their three children would probably not join him right away. "It might take a while until Victoria is." AP

HARD AT WORK. Russian tennis player Maria Sharapova practices on Rod Laver Arena in the program for the next week's Australian Open, where she is seeded No. 1, in Melbourne.

Roddick reaches Federer in 'wrong' event

MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA—ANDY Roddick wrapped his losing streak against Roger Federer.

Defeat inability for him, the result of the exhibition match does not count on their official record.

The defending champion picked up a confidence-boosting 6-2, 6-4, 7-6 win Saturday over top-ranked Federer in the final of the Exhibition of Kooyong Classic.

But he couldn't do it officially in his career against Federer, who looked good to pardon in the second set on the weekend before he begins his Australian Open title defense.

Asked after the match if he'd prefer to make the win for one of Melbourne Park, Roddick refused to sound Federer belonging to the trophy and joked, "Can we do that?"

Federer is a fan favorite to win the Australian Open, which would be his 10th Grand Slam title.

He completed a 92-5 season in 2006, losing only to No. 2-ranked Rafael Nadal and Andy Murray. AP

Wie, Pagunsan miss Sony Open golf cut

HONOLULU—A THRASHES FROM Hawaii stole the limelight in the Sony Open, and it would Michelle Wie.

A day after Wie gave it a good run at Canoe Brook but summer in her bid to become the first woman to qualify for the PGA Open, Todd Fuhrmann made it to Waialae Post by winning the sectional qualifier in Honolulu.

Friday brought the youngest high school student ever seen action, and it no picnic thrill.

Wie, all the attention on the 17-year-old to make the cut in her fourth start at the Sony Open—the worst ever done—it was Fuhrmann who caused a stir at Waialae as he fired seven birdies in 12-hour battle on the 10th hole par him one shot inside the cut line. That came a finish he won't soon forget, making a 15-foot eagle on the 18th hole for a 4-under 66.

Filipino Arvin Pagunsan rallied with a 72 Friday but finished with a 147 total, seven shots off the cut line.

Wie Open after Coming 16, the 5-foot-1 Pagunsan became the youngest player to hit rough to make the cut on the Sony Open—the shortest ever done—it was Fuhrmann who caused a stir at Waialae as he fired seven birdies in 12-hour battle on the 10th hole par him one shot inside the cut line. That came a finish he won't soon forget, making a 15-foot eagle on the 18th hole for a 4-under 66.

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Sunday BIZ

Business Features Editor Margie Quirapa-Espino

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■ Pearl2 makes the big difference in SMEs' lives /B2

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Preaching a culture of peace for ten years

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

BEYOND THE LONELY ONE AMONG 25 leaders from around the world who took part in the Kissinger Fellowship Study Survey Program of 2005 who did not have a degree to his name.

The program brings emerging leaders to meet with leaders of different fields in 10 to 12 cities in the United States, in the hope of providing a "more perspicuous and just world."

First, Ibrahim Pendatun Paglas III, 46, decided to basketball as much as he could in classes, dropped out of his engineering studies at the University of Mindanao in Davao City in 1983 and his agriculture studies at the Xavierian Arellano University Foundation in Manila in 1987.

Almost all of his colleagues, on the other hand, had more than one degree, with PhDs, LLBs to MBAs attached to their names.

Meaningful accomplishment

But Dr. Ibrahim Paglas, who is more comfortable in boots and a jacket, T-shirt, did not miss the perspective fellowship in the United States for his academic achievements, but rather for his arguably even more meaningful accomplishment of conducting a culture of peace and development in his hometown of Datu Paglas, Maguindanao in the autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao.

That breeds his confidence and enabled him to relax just at the discussions with his classmates and even tease how to use a laptop computer.

"I would listen to them talk about economics and governance. I listen and remember their love ideas. When I go back to my country, I vowed like the brightest person in the class, 'Paglas can do more.'"

He realized then that education was continuing process and he yearns to share what he learned with his fellow Muslims in Mindanao, particularly in the prosperity town of Datu Paglas.

As recently as 10 years ago, only people with a death wish passed through Datu Paglas at night.

Guns and violence were part of life for the residents of the Northern municipality, many of whom were members, simply children or former members of rebel group Moro Islamic Liberation Front.

But through the efforts of Paglas, former mayor of the municipality, and part of a dynastic political and economic clan that has produced governors, a governor and political leaders, citizens of Datu Paglas in a way vow to end all wars have been relegated to memory.

Beehive of activity

Today, it is a beehive of economic activity as it is home to the best foreign investment to poultry-producer ARMSCO, Inc. Poultry Inc., which exports top quality hormone to the Middle East, Iran, Japan, China, Korea under the brands Chopstix and Chinkstix.

What used to be idle property that was home to, which it owns a sprawling 1,000-hectare hormone plantation that generates an annual revenues of between $10 million and $15 million, and the hands that used to hold guns and knives now yield to it to help cut five to six million boxes of hormone each crop.

To say that transforming a war zone into an economic zone was difficult is an understatement as the 43-year-old "Bai" Paglas famous-father-son-mayor.

Paglas was still mayor in 1999, when a friend of his, who was with the United States Agency for International Development, informed him that a group of foreign investors was looking for land in Mindanao that could be developed into a business plantation.

He was recommended because his family had land, and he could convince the owners of the land around his family's property to agree to a lease contract.

Both Paglas was just what the investors from Japan, Saudi Arabia and the United States were looking for as it had friends (land), allied interests, and ties to a typhoon free location. There was a lot of water and cheap electricity and labor can be easily leased.

DATU Ibrahim Pendatun Paglas III

Awaited opportunity

It was not difficult to convince him to come on board and offer his land as he has long been waiting for the opportunity to have economic development in Datu Paglas.

"I wondered at that time why our people were so poor," Paglas told the business, "and one reason was that we have always been talking about politics, and not enough of economics, and business is what we need to develop."

Convincing him to join the project was one thing, but quite another is to get other people, especially the residents and the landowners, to welcome the investment as they have bound smaller properties of land into more consistent holdings, and all want to sought.

And it did not help that most of the supervisors were Christian and the technology would be taught by to non-experts.

Paglas says it was fortunate that he was a datu or noble leader, and still carried some credibility with the people, for he was able to convince the people, including his uncle, MILF leader Ibrahim Salamat to at least give the investment a chance to take root and survive.

"The most difficult part about the venture was convincing our Muslim constituents to accept the investment as one more economic development," Paglas says. "They was no trust and it took a while for them to accept the changes that they had to make."

Leader by example

One of the first problems for investors was the fact that the Muslims refused to lay down their weapons and stop using them to work, making the foreigners uncomfortable.

So Paglas did the unthinkable and dropped his own concept of backgrounds, country and guns.

"How else could I convince investors to lay down their arms when they are no with bodyguards and guns," Paglas says. "It was difficult because leaders never disarm personal or having a lot of guns, but it was something I had to do."

Then there was the problem of the hectic watching as working the workers up at 4:30 in the morning for morning before starting work at 5 a.m., an ungodly hour for Muslims used to working up at 9 in the morning.

Paglas was no different, but he found himself in order to work, usually the time to be at the plantation at 5 in the morning. Eventually, the workers followed his example and came to work early.

Another problem which stopped up was that many of the Muslim workers assumed the fact that their supervisor was either a Christian or a foreigner.

"I told you what I, as a Muslim myself, told them that our problem is education," Paglas says. "I just told them that if we wanted to be like those foreigners and Christians, then we have to study and transform them."

The Muslims took to the challenge.

They learned from their supervisors and gained themselves equal to the task and responsibility of running a plantation that had to compete with among the world's best.

Ex-Tuason enjoy has about 60 Muslim supervisors and one of the best is former MILF battalion commander Ramasudan Ipaldes.

It has been almost 10 years since Datu Paglas sent into business production and the second time from sweet indeed.

Income for the people

Paglas proudly says that some 2,500 workers have today have income when they used to have none.

Most of them have their own houses and send their children to college in the rural bank and to qualify some more and more than five out of drowning a better life by themselves and their families, and they enjoy peace that has eluded them for generations.

But the biggest benefit that does not carry a price tag is that the workers learned more about their Christian and Jewish brethren, even whom they have learned as friends, and they learned from them as well.

Together, they built an enterprise that has become a living and breathing example of how to ensure peace investment can lead to peace, brotherhood and development.

Inspired by the success in Datu Paglas, Lobregat has expanded its operations to include other towns. Soon in Lanao del Sur with a combined area of 2,000 hectares. It is also working on a plantation that will produce palm oil, and another in Sarangani province. Both will be for the export market.

"We are replicating the model at Cherman Muslim brother-hood in Datu Paglas in those areas," Paglas says. "Each plantation will employ 3,000 farmers and create 3,000 workers."

Accolades

His role in fostering this peace and development earned for him not only a considerable fame through the Paglas group of companies did not go unnoticed.

He is the only Muslim, for instance, to have won the Ten Outstanding Young Men award for nurturing Datu Paglas into a peace and economic zone, he also the recipient of the achievement award for the business and peace program of the Philippine Business for Social Progress and was the sole nominee from the Philippines to the Outstanding Leaders of the World in Tomorrow Awards in 2000.

He says he still cannot believe that he was able to get into the Dwight Eisenhower fellowship, let alone finish the course.

But his celebrities always tell him that he never does enough his place in the jobs circle because he did something they can only dream about. He takes a real, meaningful and tangible difference in the lives of his people and his country.

Sunday Crossword

PREMIER CROSSWORD/ By Frank A. Longo: 8/8/06

continues on page C4

Pearl2 makes the big difference in SMEs' lives

By Irene R. Sino Cruz
Inquirer Visayas

CEBU CITY—WILHELM CHRISTOPH BILLIARD tables from Korea entered the market in 2002, Olivia de Dedoe owner Mary Rejuelo Salazar had to cut down the workforce from 40 to 20.

The Cebu City-based company, however, overcame the crisis when it shifted to producing high-end furniture upon the encouragement of the Bello Paradise Manufacturers Association (Bma), a partner-business support organization (BSO) of the Private Enterprise Accelerated Resource Linkages 2 (Pearl2).

Considered as the flagship program of The Canadian International Development Agency (Cida) for private sector development in the Philippines, Pearl2 provides assistance to small and medium enterprises, through BSOs, to enable them to expand, compete in, and succeed in, export-oriented jobs in the Visayas.

In 2003, the Bma provided on balance to join the organization and see her existing equipment and skilled workers to start a high-end furniture making business.

Salazar participated in various local and international shows to market her furniture.

She did not get any order from the first show in October 2004 but the second show generated an order. She has since participated in succeeding fairs that followed.

As a result, Olivia de Dedoe has received total orders of $75,000 (about P3.6 million) from South Korea, Iran, Dubai, India and Middle East countries, a far cry from the $5,000 (P240,000) order she had before she joined the trade fairs.

She now has 15 to 20 direct workers and subcontracts her stainless steel and upholstery requirement to another Bma member in Bello City.

Another partner BMA, the Cebu Furniture Industry Foundation Inc. (CFIF), has also been receiving assistance from Pearl2 for about three years.

CFIF executive director Ruby Rubio-Isidro noted that Pearl2 has been instrumental in making the micro, medium and small enterprises (MSMEs) in the industry competitive.

CFIF has a membership base reaching 182 manufacturers and exporters and 12 subcontractors.

THE CEBU Furniture Industry Foundation (CFIF) sent its own delegation to the 2006 MACEF International Home Show in Milan, Italy last January 2006 under the banner, "CEBU IS GOES ABROAD" Program.

Since Pearl2's main thrust is the strengthening of BSOs, like CFIF, the partner-BSOs delivered better services to its members.

At a time when Philippine furniture exporters face stiff competition from their counterparts in China, Indonesia and Vietnam, the furniture export sector needs Pearl2 assistance, especially in trade fair participation, to access new markets.

"Pearl2 tremendously boosted our capacity to deliver services to our members so they would become more competitive," Rubio-Isidro said.

The subsidies provided by Pearl2 to CFIF for participation in international fairs, staff training, and international consultants have generated positive impact on both the CFIF and its individual members, she pointed out.

"Normally, many of our members could not afford to participate in international fairs or hire international consultants. The Pearl2 subsidies enabled them to do these things," Isidro explained.

According to Pearl2 data, the sales generated from trade fairs it supported during the fiscal year 2005-2006 reached about $22 million, up from over $12 million for fiscal year 2004-2005.

Another of Pearl2's achievements is the creation of the BMA Executive Directors Network, which would help sustain Pearl2 programs, she said.

Indeed, at first glance, the project does not strike one as having great impact on the community. But a closer look would show that Cida's Pearl2 has helped create thousands of jobs in the countryside even to inception.

Pearl2 accomplished the Borough the Sustainable and enhanced support extended to small and medium-sized exporters, which enabled them to surpass their market access, production

Pearl2 ...

From page B1

efficiency and design capability.

For this reason, the mayor went here and, instead the one-year extension of the program, which would have ended in November 2007.

Imelda Cruz, president of the Cebu Gifts, Toys and Housewares Inc., says the extension of Pearl2 would benefit the small exporters.

Cruz says the Pearl2 has been providing training for the business support organizations (BSOs), like the Cebu GIFT, that enable BSOs to help their members compliance.

Jimi gathered from Pearl2 from the BSOs the program's support showed that direct employment alone for exporters that benefited from the program has reached about 150,000.

These small companies also created indirect employment since these usually contract some of the processes.

For example, Cruz's company 3188 still has outsourced weaving jobs to 2,000 families in Cebu and Bohol.

Most of these families, which are in the agricultural sector, earn up to P2,500 weekly, on top of the income they earn from farming, Cruz says.

While the P10,000 monthly earnings from the outsource jobs would not mean much, he notes that the standard of living of these families have improved.

"Now, they could send their children to school. They could buy motorbikes," Cruz pointed out.

Even the community has benefited from the improved purchasing power of the beneficiary families, he said.

"As entrepreneurs (Bohol), the economic activity is much better. The public vice market used to open only on Thursdays and Sundays. Now, it opens daily," Cruz says.

Cruz also says the Pearl2 project has helped the small exporters expand their markets through participation in local and international trade fairs.

Pearl2 subsidizes up to 40 percent of total expenses incurred by the small exporters who, in the past, could not participate in the trade fairs due to limited financial capability to participate.

"Through the trade fairs, we could turn barter, including those who could not come to Philippines. We receive orders. We process the fee the country, especially for the established members," Cruz says.

He notes that they increased more than 10 percent of the company's production, a few days after receiving the job order.

Aside from the Cebu GTB and the Bais, Pearl2 has 17 partner-BSOs, such as the Chamber of Furniture Industries of the Philippines, Cebu Resident Accessories Manufacturers and Exporters Inc., Cebu Software Development Association, Cebu Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the Association of Bogos Producers and the Boracay Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

The Pearl2 program is come about when the Canadian government, through the CIDA, approved more than P40 million to fund the one-year extension.

"By strengthening small and medium enterprises in the provinces, young people and women in rural areas do not necessarily have to go to Manila, Cebu or Davao to look for employment. They could start work in their communities," Canadian Ambassador Peter Sutherland says in a statement.

The project has been providing support for BSOs and chambers of commerce in the furnitureware sectors of furniture and home furnishings; gifts and housewares; food and food processing; fashion accessories; and organic and natural products.

The Pearl2, which started in 2002, has subsidized the participation of almost 400 small and medium enterprises to more than 60 domestic and international trade fairs.

The extension phase would focus on how the BSOs would sustain the gains generated by the project.

St. Peter Life Plan officers who have completed the Graduate Placement Scholarship Program of SSHRP. Each is shown with Managing Director for St. Peter Employee Scholarship Program (below).

St Peter Life Plan Inc. congratulates the St. Peter officers who have completed their respective undergraduate programs under the St. Peter Employee Scholarship Program (ESP). The ESP was developed in line with the Company's commitment to engage its employees through training and development. Having enabled not only its employees but also officers to pursue advanced studies from only the best business schools such as The Ateneo Graduate School of Business, La Salle, U.P. School of Labor and Industrial Relations (SOLAIR) and the prestigious University of Asia & the Pacific, the plan ensures innovation, continued growth and provides for wise, competent and talented succession. The program offers a full scholarship that includes books and other related school expenses. To date, 11 full scholars have benefited since its launch close to three years ago.

SM NAMED TOP PHILIPPINE RETAILER

SM's receiving top size award the Top Philippine Retailer in the 2006 Retail Asia-Pacific Top 100 Awards held recently in Singapore. This is the third time in three years that SM was cited by the Singapore-based publication, and its program partners—Euromonitor International, KPMG and Nielsen. SM president Teresita Sy-Coson receives the Award from Anne Bailey, Director of Business Development of KPMG International of Hong Kong. "These award-winning retailers set topic their sizes in their respective market," said Steven Ng, Exec. chair of Retail Asia Publishing's "2006 Awards Committee. In 2006, SM opened the SM Mall of Asia which redefined shopping center and retail standards in the Philippines.

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Sunday LIFESTYLE

Editor Cheche Bautista Formoso

Sunday sizzlers

THIS infamous sexy gown earned its singer Bjork at the 73rd annual Academy Awards will not be included in this year's retrospective. Oscar fashion show. "They wouldn't give it to me," said Oscar producer Laura Ziskin.

DID YOU SAY YOU WANTED Sunday to be a day for taking it easy and taking naps? Cmon, you can't be serious. How about making it a day for taking notes at reading this section and for taking stock of what's cool and what's cruel, what's good and what's bad, what's some kind of wonderful and what's not.

By the way, we're back on the clock. Cmon and exercisers, snipers on restlessness, of course. Email us at lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph.

Wear are they now?

What is the world's biggest fashion night of the year? The Oscar awards night, that's what. "It's a big celebration of fashion and style," Vogue editor-at-large Andre Leon Talley told AP. "The area day, everyone talks about who won and who wore what."

The fashion show will be dramatically memorable this year where Talley returns as a retrospective of memorable outfits from the past five decades of the Oscars. Among the collection are 20 of the most iconic red carpet duds, including nine dresses from Sophia Loren, Marie Antoinette inspired white peacock, Sharon Stone's memorably Gap T shirt/Valentino skirt combo and Barbra Streisand's unforgettable transparent bell-bottom trousers.

What is Talley dying to include? Answering us all? Elton Barkin's Versace dress from 1995, a Halston gown worn in 1969 by Gloria Grant, the divine Julie Andrews wore in 1965 and "anything from Standard Hotel."

Friends!

?

While the oft between this high-profile celebrity and her direct doesn't seem anywhere near repair, her long-standing and very public... Brad seem her magical interviewers in sports-jacket mood.

It is said the younger woman recently sent a present to her not-quite-yet (and maybe-never-to-be) mother-in-law. Surprise! Surprise! Her gesture was acknowledged with a thank-you note from the older lady.

Her huge show-whippers of a remembrances are real and as genuine as, um, the gleaming rocks and dumpiest dude of this condescend celeb.

Gone to Guam

Just when you thought you had the undercurrent Hollywood scoop all screamed for crowd of 26 in the country, according to latest tallies. Henry Sy and family had to go and open a store at the Agana Shopping Center in Guam. Add to the international starring dork Sy's inaugural ceremony in Guam, and you can definitely say Dreamers for "So Many."

At the opening, Guam Gov Felix Camacho honored Sy founder and chair Henry Sy Jr. with the Governor's Cutlass award, naming him an Ambassador of Goodwill of Guam. The award was established in 2000 to recognize those who have rendered distinguished service to the island of Guam, her people, and her future.

It was in it in the 1960s that Sy first visited Guam and invested in the Guam Hilton Hotel. He now put some money in the Agana Shopping Center, his second almost 30 years before he decided to branch out SM there. As usual, the one-stop store brought in gallery of pen-moving Philippine products and stocked in shelves with 80 made goods and goodies.

The heaven sellers in the classic second

BLUE RIBBON: SM founder and chair Henry Sy Sr. shares honors with Guam Gov Felix Camacho and First Lady Joanne Camacho at the ribbon-cutting ceremony to open SM Guam.

POSH & BECKS. Ex-Spice Girl Victoria Adams and soccer star David Beckham.

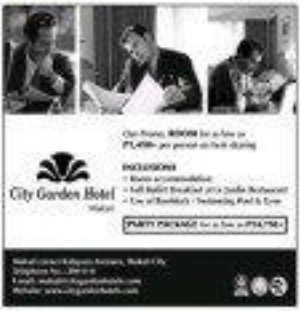
Oasis Pillows, according to an SM executive.

Hollywood hotties

Bill Gates' slot David Beckham and his wife, former Spice Girl Victoria "Posh Spice" Adams, dubbed "Posh and Becks" by the British media, are making celebrity waves in Los Land all again. Beckham will be playing for the soccer team Los Angeles Galaxy soon.

The gorgeous soccer star and his metal-set-ting wife are supposed to fill the void left by previous Angelina Jolie and Brad Pitt and couple Tom Cruise and Katie Holmes, who have been hitting from the paparazzi and are more interactive raising their kids.

SUNDAY/C2



PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
Sunday LIFESTYLE Travel
SUNDAY, JANUARY 14, 2007

MT. BANAHAW
stands about 8,000
feet above sea level.

Mythical Mt. Banahaw

By Pablo A. Tariado
Contributor

IT IS HARD TO IMAGINE THE town of Majayjay in Laguna without Mt. Banahaw.

Standing about 8,000 feet above sea level, the mountain serves as a marvelous backdrop to the town, like a classic mural. Once upon a time, Mt. Banahaw was a volcano. But after a single eruption, it fell into a deep sleep from which it has yet to awaken. Gracie left by the erupting lava became springs that now feeds a battery of beautiful waterfalls.

Mt. Banahaw seems to grow what scientists say about mountains influencing atmospheric conditions. In Majayjay, the latter season sometimes last until April, the peak of the dry season in most of the Philippines.

Sue Cruz, Laguna's regional comm., may be overstating but it will be raining hard in Majayjay. This is why many residents laughingly regard themselves as under a circular, the traditional Filipino kitchen working area.

Summer rain in Majayjay is quite so-so-so-so. Then, the sky above Mt. Banahaw turns inky black even if it is a bright day. Then, a drizzle becomes a full-fledged downpour lasting only about an hour.

Disappearing waterfalls

After the rain, the fog covering the mountain slopes, revealing two waterfalls cascading side by side. These waterfalls do not remain visible for long. They gradually disappear, and are totally gone from sight just a short time later.

Majayjay has never had the devastating flash floods that have claimed lives in other places situated at the foot of a mountain. This may be because Mt. Banahaw still has lush rainforests where wild orchids grow on trees, and wild animals like deer and wild boars that are rarely spotted.

What keeps Mt. Banahaw relatively untouched is not any memorable law on the preservation of wildlife. Actually, there is no serious effort to protect the mountain, not even a municipal ordinance.

Majayjay Mayor Teo Ecillan admits that protecting the mountain has never been in his agenda since he assumed office in 2001.

Apparently what keeps the mountain safe are the legends handed down through generations.

"People are just scared because Mt. Banahaw [panders those who mess with its] wildlife," says an old man living in a foothill barangay. He recalls stories about how the mountain "defended" itself in back up his claim.

Unexplained incidents

In 1993, a man reportedly died in Mt. Banahaw while hunting wild pigs using homemade explosives called pamputok. His brother-in-law, who accompanied him and was wounded, said while they were eating, one of the supposedly exiled out of their bags and, after bumping against a tin can, exploded right in front of the other men, killing him instantly.

Another man disappeared in the mountain while gathering vanza. After days of searching, he was found in a gully talking incoherently. When he recovered, he said a lucy had covered his location, making it difficult for him to find his way until he passed out from exhaustion.

Ecillan, during his first term, had to change the layout of his feeder road project for a barangay at the foot of Mt. Banahaw because the bulldozer always broke down when it moved in a particular direction. Once the equipment was moved to another side, it ran without a problem.

> What keeps the mountain safe from destruction by humans may be the legends handed down through generations

THE SACRED image of Señora de la Peñarrie enshrined over the Ulla River at the Western Foothill of Mt. Banahaw

SCIENTIFICALLY named Aerides Quinquevulnera, this orchid class has almost solid purple blooms grown largely on Mt. Banahaw.

MAJESTIC Falls as the eastern foot of Mt. Banahaw

TO APPRECIATE Mt. Banahaw better, one has to go up the mountain.

At the eastern part of Mt. Banahaw is Dagat-dagatan, an area considered holy. It is said that one should not misbehave in this place or he/she will face danger. A medical student was reported to have fallen into the water and almost drowned when he attempted to pick an orchid beside a waterfall.

Along Pérez Granada, a retired Manila employee, talks about a magic vine growing near Dagat-dagatan. He says the magic vine, whose fruit has a cross mark, makes the bearer irresistible to women.

Whether or not people believe the myths about Mt. Banahaw, the fact is there has not been any report of illegal logging in the area. Previous attempts had failed, and the people who did them reportedly were never seen again.

Two-day journey

To appreciate Mt. Banahaw better, one has to go up the mountain. The journey takes two days and, toward the end, at about 1,800 feet on the mountain, the terrain becomes difficult. You have to clamber up boulders and take extra care not to trigger an avalanche of stones.

The summit of Mt Banahaw is an expanse of green grass with some cypress trees. Though one hears the sound of running water, no river or any other body of water can be seen at the top. This seems to confirm the belief of old Majayjay residents in an underground lake.

Mt. Banahaw has five waterfalls, but only one, the Majayjay Falls Resort, is accessible by road. Visitors are advised to bring their own provisions, tents and flashlights.

It takes 15 minutes to drive to Majayjay Falls Resort from the poblacion. Along the way, visitors can visit the Shrine of Virgin Mary located over the Ulla River at the entrance of the town.

TRAVEL BRIEFS

Higher than average rating

Oakwood Premier Ayala Center in Makati City has posted an above-industry average occupancy rate of 78 percent. Hotel executives attribute this performance to the property's plush appointments and high-service standards, as well as central location. Situated in the central walking distance of top multinational and regional Philippine corporations. During the year, the property registered a guest satisfaction rating of 85.71 percent in a periodic survey of Oakwood properties worldwide. Call 1796888 ext. 8300 or e-mail salesmkt@oakwood.com.ph.

European religious pilgrimage

Auntie Fabiancan "Chit" de la Cruz is organizing a pilgrimage to some religious sites in Europe, included is Bordeaux, are Fatima and Santarem, Portugal. In Spain, the trip will include Santiago de Compostela, Avila, Madrid and Valencia. Also to be visited is the same route by are Montserrat, Barcelona and Zaragoza. The group moves to Lourdes, Nancy, Bern, Mont, Genoa, Pisa and Rome in Italy.

The pilgrimage ends in Rome where participants will have a chance to see Pope Benedict XVI at St. Peter's Square. Call 8334888 or 8408925, or e-mail chitdelacruz@yahoo.com.

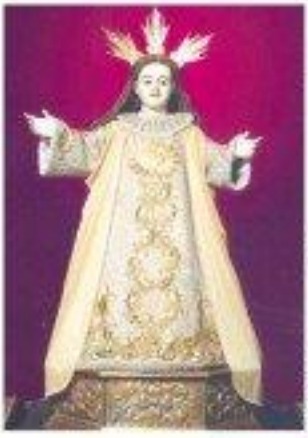
A thousand choices

Travelers traveling this January can look forward to over 1,000 entertainment choices onboard all aircraft equipped with Inflight on-flight entertainment systems. ICE. Offering over 800 channels, choices include video and audio on-demand, over 40 interactive games, satellite telephone, short messaging service and e-mail. See BBC news headlines, an airline-routing map, and selected cuisines for a bird's eye view of the journey. Executive aircraft equipped with the TV and Radio Cable Network System now also offers more new titles each month. This year, Travelers won for "the second year the best inflight Entertainment at the 2006 World Airline Awards by Skytrax.

Hotel offers prom package

The Bellevue Hotel has a Prom Package designed to make sure during this traditional school event hassle free. Organizers can have any party themed they want — from the roaring '20s party to a hip-style ball at the Grand Ballroom. The package includes sit-down or buffet dinner, mobile disco, table and buffet centerpieces, one round of local tee, guestbook and pen, and eight corkscrews for an overnight stay in a deluxe room with breakfast for two. Different set or buffet menus are available from a minimum of 100 to a maximum of 600 persons. Call 1112181.

OAKWOOD units offers a living area as well as a full kitchen and dining facilities.



STO. NIÑO de Presidencia has been cherishing it since Jan. 27, 1992. At left, "Wenbree," patron of Congregacion del Santissimo Nombre del Niño Jesus

PURELY PERSONAL
Josephine Dereng

Tuguegarao university is 100 years old

BR. SIMEON ABRAHAM is a product of St. Paul University Philippines (SPUP) in Tuguegarao.

A member of the elementary class of 1969, Br. Simeon and his classmates were taught the Dominican pledge: "I pledge to be a Christian, steeped in the tradition of my Catholic faith, trained and led by gentle loving hands to be another Mary, walking through life, bringing peace and joy and love as I walk among my people the way mastery and my God."

Br. Simeon, vice president of the SPUP Alumni Associations, is helping organize activities with classmates for his Batch Gab 920 '69 and 105 '51, alumni association president, for the school's 100th anniversary.

SPUP will hold its centennial celebration Jan. 26-28, with the theme "100 Years of Life and Mission." Please call Fr. Mario Marcelle Nisnisan, SDC, for information at (078) 844-1863, Or. Edith Pagulayan, (078) 844-1867, and Debbie Lim, (078) 844-1647 or 0917 5748 195.

First in Cagayan

Established by the St. Paul of Charity Sisters in 1907, SPUP the first Catholic school in the Cagayan Valley, has a student population of 4,875.

Sr. Teresa Angela Javier, SPUP president, says the start of the celebration will be marked by religious, socio-cultural, civic, sports, and academic activities to promote awareness of and love for the Church and Catholic education not just in Cagayan Valley but the whole Philippines.

Thanksgiving

Magi Valley Mall will celebrate the Thanksgiving Mass honoring Our Mother de la Providencia Jan. 27, 10 a.m., at the chapel on Pijuan St., SF Town1 Village, Las Piñas.

The devotion to the Child Jesus under this title in the Philippines is 15 years old.

Devotees will bring the miraculous image to Mary Mother of the Church Parish in a motorcade at 8:30 p.m. for a concelebrated Mass at 9 p.m.

Expected to concelebrate the Mass are Immaculate Fr. Pio Lumbres, Fr. Basil Apostol, Fr. Alex Navarro and Fr. Noel Reyes, SVD; Fr. Bobby Mendiola of Cainta, Rizal; Fr. Joseph Sese and Fr. Bonny Peñaflor.

Devotion

In his research, John Erwin Espiritu, a member of the Congregacion del Santissimo Nombre del Niño Jesus, found that several saints were devoted to the Child Jesus. While on earth, they lived their lives according to the Divine.

Because of their life or as saints, was St. Joseph, foster father of Jesus and husband of the Blessed Virgin Mary. When St. John the Baptist was in the womb of his mother Elizabeth, he leaped with joy when he heard the voice of Mary. He was the first to recognize the Baby Jesus, who was still in Mary's womb.

Saints Melchior, Gaspar and Balthasar, the Holy Magi from the East, offered gifts affirming Jesus' kingship (gold), eternal priesthood (incense) and role as savior of the world (myrrh).

The first saints of the circle were the Holy Innocents who were killed by Herod the Great. Their feast day of Los Inocentes is on Dec. 28.

In the Viena del Sto. Niño exhibit opening Jan. 18, 5 p.m., at the PhD Wonderful Creation, images of saints devoted to the Infant Jesus will be displayed. Exhibit is open 9 a.m. 9 p.m. A Novena Mass will be held at 7 p.m.

Other saints devoted to the Infant Jesus include St. Teresa de Avila, St. John of the Cross, St. Joseph of Cupertino, St. Rose of Lima, St. Therese of the Child Jesus who referred to herself as the "doll of the Infant Jesus," and St. Faustina of Kowalska who wrote in her diaries that she could see the Child Jesus during Mass, instead of the Consecrated Host.

Virgin of the Poor

The Barefoot Nuns of the Virgin of the Poor in Payatas, Quezon City, will celebrate the feast of the Virgin of the Poor on Jan. 19.

The Barefoot Nuns are members of the Poor Clares of Perpetual Adoration, founded by Mother Mary Veronica of the Passion in Belgium in 1910.

The Barefoot Nuns of the Virgin of the Poor in Payatas, Quezon City, will celebrate the feast of the Virgin of the Poor on Jan. 19.

The Barefoot Nuns are members of the Poor Clares of Perpetual Adoration, founded by Mother Mary Veronica of the Passion in Belgium in 1910.

Considered a Divine.

The parish was consecrated in 1993 by his Eminence, Jaime Cardinal Sin. Fr. Nicanor Blanquisco was the first parish priest. In 1999, Msgr. Mr. Andrew Fernandez of Antwerp, Belgium, donated and personally delivered the first 1.28 metric statue of the Virgin of the Poor.

A second statue that arrived in 2000 is brought on different ceremonies in the parish. Fr. Sito Acosta is the present parish priest (tel. 8434477).

Monastery

The St. Catherine's Monastery at the foot of Mt. Moses, bordering Egypt and the Holy Land, has been declared World Heritage Site by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.

It is the oldest working Christian monastery with the largest collection of the world's endless manuscripts, second only to the Vatican library. Its main shrine is Saint Deserves, is that it was the site of the Burning Bush where God spoke to Moses.

The Chapel of the Burning Bush was built by Empress Helen, mother of Constantine the Great, in the monastery built by Emperor Justinian.

St. Catherine's body was reported to have been swept by angels. Her remains were discovered 500 years later at the peak that now bears her name. Her relics are kept in the basilica.

Mt. Moses is the starting point for the climb up, or pilgrims can have a panoramic view. It is part of the pilgrimage to Egypt, Jordan and the Holy Land leaving Feb. 25. Call 523 3420 or text 0918-9082875.

Radio show

The popular "St. Expeditus" radio program on Radio Veritas, 846 AM Band, has been moved 7-8 p.m., Jan. 21. Host Sunday. Presented by the Society of St. Expeditus, the program is anchored by the author, Olivia Pablito Alcantara as co-anchor with Dr. Cora Santiago. Fr. Erwene Cortes will do "Healing on the air" and Tony Medina will give the "Breaking News."

EMILY'S POST
Emily Marcelo

Is the feeling really mutual?

DEAR EMILY,

I've had this relationship for almost a year. He has been a friend since high school.

But after eight years, I saw him again only last year. We were able to open up to each other about our feelings, and realized we felt the same way about each other all that time.

The problem is we're both married!

I've been married for three years, no kids. His situation is going on seven and he has two kids.

My husband is an overseas Filipino worker and has been away almost two years.

When I started this relationship, I said, don't intervene in my husband and we gradually lost touch with each other. Then last month we "bled" for the annulment of our marriage. My husband said he had become a Muslim.

I really love my friend and am willing to be with him. But he said he could not leave his kids. He told me he loved me, and I could feel it, but he couldn't leave his family because of the kids.

I don't think it's a valid reason. He also told me that he still had feelings for his wife.

Does it really happen to real life that a person can have two loves at the same time? As far as I know, when you have found another love, your feelings for the first love will lessen.

I experienced that with my husband.

MARIFE

For a grapple while you are all apple! You may have a part of him but, clearly, not all of him!

It is easier for pairs of break up with your OFW husband because there is not a lot of material holding you two together. He is far away and you have not had enough history in the marriage to withstand a typhoon like loneliness.

Your boyfriend has three solid posts holding him back plus that X-factor that he truly owes his family.

What is happening here is your boyfriend did not have symbols and drama when he met you again. If he did, you would not be writing this letter and having this problem.

He would have swept you off your feet without a thought for the whole wide world. He would not be giving you a song and dance about not being able to name his two kids and a wife that he withdrew? He still loved.

A year ago, you may have met in an emotion-laden setting, and were overcome with your "confessions" of "a puppy love that never faded." This could have been true for you... but for him? He saw a gift of an office and he grabbed it! Sorry, he is human!

Unless you are willing to relegate yourself to being just a full-time girlfriend with its privileges except occasionally sharing your bed and once in a while getting away when he is able to make up excuses to his family, then go home and make the most of this sad fallout. High romance, guilt ridden relationship.

To your question, "Can a person have two loves at the same time?" the answer is, of course.

One has to be first among equals. In this case, the wife is unknowingly secure in her starring role while the other, well... that would be you.

And while you are about to waste time and money for an annulment just to take up the role of the other woman, why don't you invest some facility for this guy take note that you already have an inkling of what is going on. Obsession... get the picture?

E-mail the author at emarcelo@inquirer.com.ph, Subject: Lifestyle, or send your letters to Features Editor to Ms Marcelo as host the program "Kalilimutan Kailanman," 7-7:15 p.m., Monday-Friday on dzBB 594.3 FM.

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Per DTI Permit No. 06-921 Series of 2007

Bridal fair at new events venue

CEBU LUXE EVENTS WILL hold a bridal fair soon at 3 Highlands, the new events venue at the Reclamation Area. With the theme "Reclaiming the Sea," the fair will showcase some of the top names in the wedding industry such as Haven's Catering, invitation maker Printmode Society Tokens, wedding ring maker Cebu CRAFTsmanship, flowers expert Utopia, Photoworks, photo and video specialists, gown designers Mako, Gorizo, veil artists, souvenir makers, travel agents, musicians, stylists and coordinators. Call 09293403888. Engaged couples can register online at www.cebuluxe.com.

BRIDAL exhibit at Mall of Asia

Fully furnished, fully fab

SLEEK 2-bedroom loft

CENTURY PROPERTIES INC. SHEARS NOFF ground in its joint venture project with ECPI, the magnificent 40-story residential condominium that is Grand Soho Makati.

GSM comes from the same visionaries behind Ayala's "best residential condominium," Eastwood East Harbor (awarding in the event). Combining the three integral components of a high-rise haven—location, luxury and affordability, GSM is an ideal place for local and foreign investors, entrepreneurs and multinationals corporates.

Situated within Ayala's Golden Triangle, GSM's prime location (at the corner of Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, formerly Buendia, and Dela Costa Avenue) gives residents FAR access to the fast-paced Makati lifestyle. Schools, churches, banks, embassies and the Metro Rail Transit station are just a few minutes away.

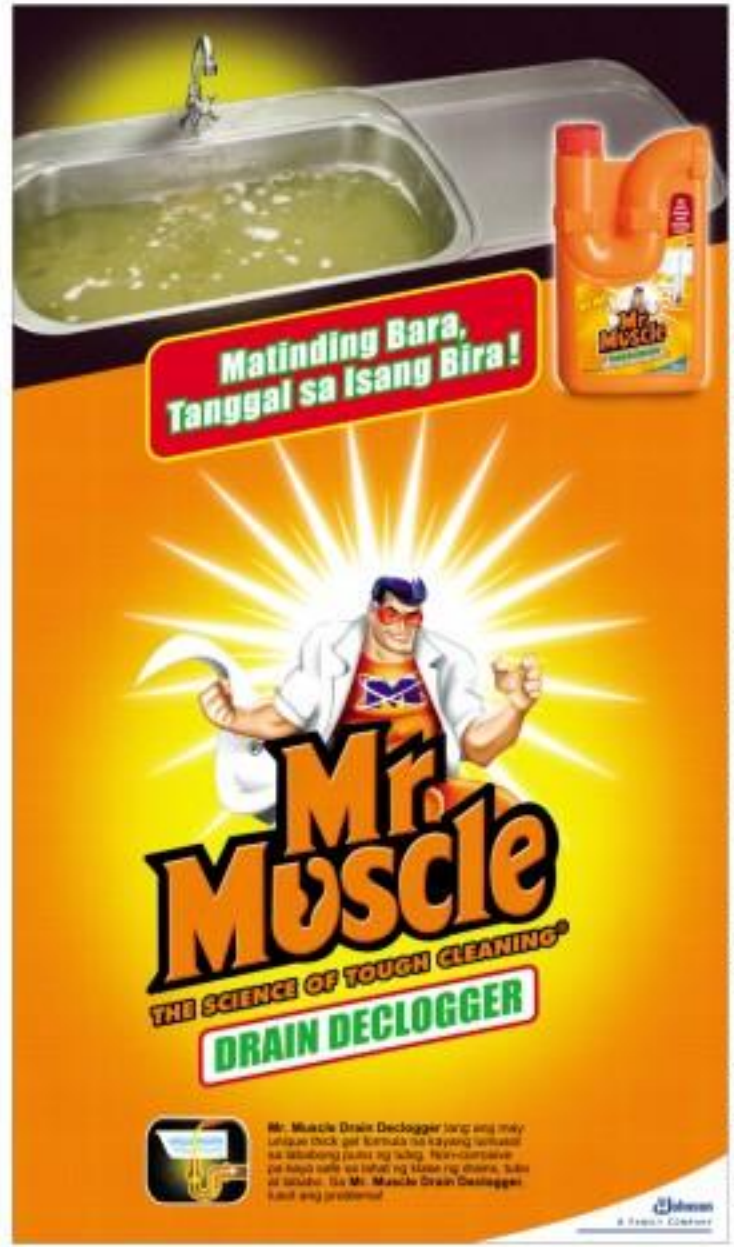
Grand Soho Makati faces the creation of home with the accent on facilities and convenience of modern living. While the concierge service, THX viewing room, spa, function room, fitness center and library are only a few of the amenities that residents can delight in, the main attractions are, of course, its luxurious units. Choose from a studio, one-, two- and three-bedroom configurations or indulge in the chic sky lofts perched on unique level on the ninth floor, which also contains the sundeck and infinity pool.

In an effort to make purchasing a unit and moving in a hassle free and time saving experience, Century Properties has pioneered the "fully furnished, fully fitted" concept for all its condo units. Furnishings such as the refrigerator, microwave oven, stove top, dining table and chairs, sofa, coffee table, 21 inch Sony flat-screen TV and DVD player all come at zero cost and are ready for use. In addition, GSM offers three sole design options: Modern, Sleek and Contemporary (each with its own dark, light or combination theme).

Compared to its competitors, GSM also gives its buyers optimal value for their hard-earned money (priced up to 40 percent cheaper than other similar developments) without VAT, documentary stamps and transfer fees, with rates as low as P12,000/month.

Call 811-8885, 8837058, 0915 7082000, or visit www.gsmsoho.com. Check out GSM's model units at 2/L, Lane One Pacific Star Building, Sen. Gil Puyat Ave. cor. Makati Ave., Makati City.

CONTEMPORARY 2-bedroom loft at Grand Soho Makati



Sunday sizzlers

From page C1

According to news reports, Victoria had gone home hurting as early as last summer in the Malibu and Bel-Air areas. As the Berkhart, good looks have not stopped him from running a serious soccer academy for 30 young players.

Paparazzi can hardly wait, and celeb-phoners are thinking of beefing up their staff. Prior to 1980, Britney Spears and Paris Hilton.

Not for time-sharing

Some people who bought time shares in certain resorts are finding it difficult to enjoy their investments. The property, of course, were pre-sold before construction, but, in some instances, developers never even came by hard times and so the units promised were never completed.

In some places, as in Boracay, the developers have sold portions of their property to several spaces and have left their time-shares competing for only a few weeks.

A designer we know has been wanting to enjoy his vacation place for years now. He once has he succeeding in getting a date at staying in the cost he prefers "there" with others. And the company has been mum about refunding his cash investment.

Has even the exhilarating Boracay breeze cure the color of fraud bein, is there a government agency who can come to the rescue?

In his fashion

Did blood pressure shot up as he had to be hospitalized. But where did Mr. Hotels find him when they came a-visiting? In the bathroom, smoking!

You'd think, given that he is on the top of his game and he is one of the moving forces in his field, he'd take better care of his health. Apparently he thought otherwise.

After he checked out of the hospital, he threw a big bash and, some say, lived it up. Other reports said he was just stunned to party because, well, life is short. We, it is, and the pull is the fun even shorter.

ANSWER TO SUNDAY CROSSWORD

Sunday LIFESTYLE

NEWLYWEDS Justin and Rusty de Vera

PROUD parents Dennis and Joan Rufino

Although born a decade apart, EJ Limon and Joel Tamoco moved in similar social circles and were loved and admired by so many people

HAPPIER DAYS. EJ Limon, Sea Princess, Kat and Tess Limon

Life, love and death

TESSA!

Tessa Prieto Valdes

HAVEN RECENTLY RE-ceived two young grandmen who will surely rock the heavenly skies. Although born a decade apart, both moved in similar social circles and were loved and admired by so many people.

A there was an extremely original way in which to leave this world, my cousin, Ernest John "E.J." Limon, knew it. His leave was for the with the Big C ended last Sunday, the birthday of his beloved wife Tess. E.J. knew how to crash all the folks who had touched his life, giving them all ample time to bid him farewell.

With all the advancements in medical technology and high-speed communications, E.J.'s cynical conditions were going into uncharted territories and were simultaneously reported via text. I admittedly "followed" him several times by forwarding texts of his an-

LIFE/2E

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LIFESTYLE Weddings

NEWLYWEDS
Victor and Lisa
Bernardo (nee Gallaga)

BERNARDO-GALLAGA NUPTIALS

Ah, young and pure love

The wedding recently radiated so much positive energy that could only come from the young

WITH President Macapagal-Arroyo, father of the bride Ara Gallaga (left); and parents of the groom Ambassador Joseph and Conchitina Bernardo

VICTOR BERNARDO III, THE youngest son of Ambassador Joseph "Jake" Bernardo, Philippine Ambassador to the Kingdom Spain, and Conchitina Sevilla Bernardo. He fell in love with Lisa Gallaga, daughter of Mr & Gallaga and the late Ma. Ara Bautista.

She is a wholesome young woman, a school teacher who specializes in teaching toddlers. She also does daily in the school run by her and her friends called, precisely that, Toddlers. Victor works with the insurance firm Mercer's.

Their wedding recently radiated so much positive energy that could only come from young, pure love that the couple projected. There was sensitivity among guests that it was a beautiful affair because it was done with so much affection and caring.

The church and bridal entourage were decked with library, orchids and symbidiums. There was carnival foliage of green which cooled the warm afternoon near the sea.

The gown was simple and elegant with huge green plaid to wrapped with tulle. The dress was designed by Bertie Jun Ros.

The mass was celebrated by the Bernardos' long time friend, Archbishop Honsalito Tabampan of Tuguegarao, who recounted how he saw the groom grow from an infant to a young man.

The bride was radiant in a beautiful gown by Peter Hontiveros of Rue Chantilly lace and a long sweeping train which was dramatic and inspiring. Her headdress, the young bride wore the same diamond pieces her mother-in-law wore in her own wedding 30 years ago.

Principal sponsors included President Macapagal-Arroyo, Rose Quimson, Victoria Zobel, Marichelle de Leon, Aphra Bautista, Mrs. Isabel Michiavelo and Vicki Sotelo.

Male sponsors included Speaker Jose de Venecia, Carlos Arranza, Ambassador Roberto Romulo, Ambassador Albert del Rosario, Senator Ed Enrile and Federico Galang.

The sunset reception organized by family friend Marichelle Ligot of Bride's Blush and Company was held at the Coconut Palace.

Pastel Jazz executed first-rate classical guitar while the newlyweds were honored by the best man, Juan Carlos Bernardo, and the maids of honor, Sam-I Meimon and Nicole Catalano, whose heartwarming speech brought tears to the bride's eyes.

The bride's father, Ara Gallaga, and the groom's parents, Jake and Conchitina, were beaming with pride as they went around entertaining family and friends.

All in all it was an intimate evening with everyone happy for the love shared by the bride and groom. Vic and Lisa flew to Bangkok and El Nido for their honeymoon.

To Vic and Lisa, our best wishes for a very happy life together.

WITH Rene Quimson and Sec. Edgardo Angara

WITH the principal sponsors

WITH the entourage

Milestones

We welcome announcements of weddings and engagements. Submit names of engaged couple, names of parents, date and place of wedding, and gown designer along with a photo of the couple and a sketch of the bridal gown, if any, to the Inquirer, PO. Box 1203 Makati Central Post Office 1200 Makati City. E-mail to lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph. A photo of the bride and groom is required if the wedding has already taken place. Announcements will be printed depending on space availability and at no cost to the sender.

GO-QING

Brisbane Lim Ito, son of Lilia Lim Ito, will wed Lyndsey Lim Ong, daughter of Joel and Norma Lim Ong, today, at San Agustin Parish. The bride will wear a Leonard Cis creation of ivory duchesse satin with hand-crushed matelle organza top and a headlines skirt, with a three meter embedded train fully beaded in dainty floral design.

CATER-CULSON

Reinaldo F. Carlos, son of Reynaldo and Remedios Carlos, will wed Mary Ann A. Culson, daughter of Manuel Culson, on Jan. 20, at St. Francis of Assisi Parish Church, Muntinlupa. Reception will follow at Jade Valley Qc.

VIDAL-SEVILLA

Francis Vidal, son of Dominico and Olivia Lagrosa Vidal, will wed Maria Victoria Sevilla, daughter of Jose and Victoria Sevilla, on Jan. 14, at St. Peter Baptist Parish Church, Cainta, Rizal.

LACSON-SANCHEZ

Jose Ma. B. Lacson, son of engineer Carlindo V. and Yolanda B. Lacson, will wed Elizabeth L. Sanchez, daughter of engineer Ruben M. and Genevieve L. Sanchez, on Jan. 20, 9:30 a.m., at the Nuestra Senora de Loreto Parish in Cagayan Valley, Makati. Reception will follow at the Pavilion A, Wack Wack Golf and Country Club along Shaw Boulevard, Mandaluyong. The bride will wear an ivory duchesse satin gown embellished with matelle lace, swarovski crystals, designed by Bling Villasis of Dream Bridal Inc.

LOCSIN-CHUA

Jolnery L. Co, son of Nicanor and Bella Chuvassoll Co, will marry Windee J. Chua, daughter of Melecio and Elena Chua, today at the Basilica del Santo Niño. The bride will wear a Leonard Couture of ivory metallic organza with a beaded bodice and a three-meter train, embroidered with fine floral lace and beaded with pearls, sequins and pearls.

DASHING couple Fernando and Kit Zobel

ENTERTAINING couple Louie and Cecille Yanson

HAPPY parents Cinco and Jessie Prieto

SORRENTO Blanca Zobel and Ariston San Diego

HOT-N-HIP-LINE Raf Prieto and Raj Moreno

EXPECTING parents Pilar and Paolo Lorenzo

Life, love and death

From page B1

timely and, as it turned out, serious, demise as early as last May in retrospect, it was totally confusing, but triggered many prayers for E.J. and his family.

E.J. was a big man with an equally large and generous heart. He was for life and laughter enriched time. Whatever I should say about the musical entertainment world, he was the one to call. Many times he would help me entertain friends, get musical opinions or simply plan parties at his mom's.

In any tragedy, we should never fail to focus on the small gifts of grace that emerge. After my late brother Louie Prieto's untimely death 14 years ago, E.J. and I got close as are opposite firstborn's, that reason of a total entertainment phone with great memories.

Today countless events and celebrations after, E.J. had become the source—not only by birth, but also for strength and laughter—for so many people. As he himself, the most beautiful music could be heard, sung from the hearts of close friends like Rudy Santiago, one of the pioneers in their "band of brothers."

Death is truly strange. Sometimes, for nobles with relative closeness such that there is enough time to prepare emotionally and spiritually for his arrival, in other times, death is the proverbial thief in the night, robbing one of our loved ones instantaneously.

Such was the case with young and dynamic Joel Tambeon, who left us with no warning the day after E.J.'s passing. After wild partying and finally coming to peace with God, Joel passed away tragically from his project.

The same was all too familiar to an unfathomable outpouring of love and prayers burst forth for this brightly burning candle. At his wake to the National Shrine of the Sacred Heart that the Santoso family helped build, wonderful photo memories of Joel were posted all over on a full-size Photo display. Joel was indeed a man of cool style and suave charm. He loved a beautiful life surrounded by the love of his family and many friends.

Life can make us experience so many varied emotions that can either crush our spirits or make us soar day high with unfathomable joy and contentment. Recently experiencing these emotions makes lasting impressions. Of course, it is only the absence of something that makes us realize its importance.

Big day

On the same day that E.J. passed away, his cousin Jessie Salinas had her big wedding day with Raul de Vera at the Instituto de Jesu Asisitio Church. During the lovely wedding reception at newly renovated InterContinental Manila, her father Ernesto Salinas spoke to the newlyweds. Many said Jessie, always full of life experiences—good or bad—will bond the couple in strength and happiness.

There love story is quite interesting, as Jessie was once a student of her husband's at Ateneo de Manila University. The video area quite to clarify that the romance began after the ceremony area cute, but the attraction did start instantly.

Barry's in-laws must with the guys was what Jessie, a teacher herself at the Ateneo School, fell for. And now, I am so glad to see them start their blissful journey as a wedded couple. According to one of their siblings, Alya Rosenstein, Barry has been extremely happy and totally super in the love.

Time does fly by so quickly. Jessie's youngest sister, Ma.Jo Salinas, was her maid of honor. Me to was one of my flower girls at my wedding 13 years ago! This is the sort of full circles that can make you feel sentimental upcoming all over your face.

January must be the new June—the choicest month to marry. Another young relative, Chaka Prieto, recently wed Inez Delgado in a most dramatically lit San Antonio ceremony. Right after the newlyweds exchanged kisses, they marched down the aisle toward their reception at the new, elegant ballroom of Manila Peninsula Hotel. It was a nice change and to go through the usual rather photo ceremony.

The father of the groom, Jaime Prieto, welcomed his new daughter-in-law with a toast, telling her to look forward to an exciting and evolving time with Chaka. From the evening of excitement and dancing until dawn, here had a sample of her new happy life ahead.

Wedded bliss

As these couples start married life, generous couple Paing and Mollie Hechanova just celebrated their 52nd anniversary of wedded bliss. The lovely dinner and dance party at the Forbes Pavilion gathered long-time friends who all enjoyed each other's company.

Life inexorably goes on and so do exciting events happening in our city. This coming Saturday, Jan. 20, is the much-awaited concert of multi-awarded, operatic superstar P. Diwa at the PICC Plenary Hall at 6 p.m. Riding on the success of their third album, these four young, but seniors are not only individually talented but also gorgeous. The concert will surely be a feast for the eyes and ears.

Stand tall-ing in cooperation with Sun Life Financial, Citibank, Nada Watches of Switzerland and Philtown Properties, is the unique presence of E-Drive Live in Manila. By signing up with Smart Infinity Plan 5000, the new subscriber gets rewarded with a Nokia N73 and two VIP tickets to the concert. For inquiries, call 9488889 or get tickets through Ticketnet@ph.tel.tel 9999.

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EVERLASTING pair Mollie and Paing Hechanova

MATCH 'EI classmates Lynn Rufino-Marcelo and Vicki Bautista and Bride-2)

MAID of honor Ma.Jo Rufino and Sea Princess

ENGAGED TO BE WED Teresa Prieto and Chaka Rufino

ELEGANT couple Connie and Oscar Lopez

NEW LYWEDS, TOO: Inez and Chaka Prieto

HONORED guests Sir Michael Kadwell, Helen Delgado, Rose Delgado and Robbie Delgado

A hobby becomes exercise

ANNA Maria Perique and partner Bernard Artzi during a competition

ION OLIVA, COMPLIANCE OFFICER OF A leading bank; Maureen Santiago, Capwire Telecommunications SVP and COO; and Anna Maria Perique, Anna Maria Home Collection president, have found a fun way to exercise.

The three women are loyal patrons of Bykes Café at the La Fuerza Building on Pasong Tamo in Makati City where their dance regularly.

Oliva says dancing has become both hobby and exercise, something her cardiologist highly recommends for hypertension. A frequent consistent dance upon winner, Oliva thinks cute she wears the proper shoes that may or her feet so she can make the most of her dance workout.

Santiago says dancing helps her relieve stress, and has improved her disposition at work, something her colleagues noticed. She says even if she gets only a few hours of sleep at night, she still has a good day.

Perique got into social dancing for health reasons but soon it has become a passion. She even married with Reba Ledesma, the only Asian to win in a dance competition in Blackpool, United Kingdom).

With partner Bernard Artzi, Perique participated recently in the 2006 Dance Sport Council of the Philippines Ranking and Competition, Le Horizon and Westside Dance Sport Competition, and the Bykes Competition.

Having been to other dancing venues, the three women found they preferred Bykes for many reasons. Santiago says she likes the "feel" of Bykes. She finds it more sophisticated, a notch higher than the others.

She says the staff is always looking out for clients and really go out of their way to make sure their needs are taken care of.

She finds the environment at Bykes extremely comfortable and a member of regulars have become like family. Many women, she warns, go to Bykes alone.

Perique likes the place's clean, cozy interior. Saying she is proud to be seen at Bykes, Perique describes its ambiance as "the best-crowd, young, very hip, and classy-but-good branding."

After a while, she says a person becomes friends with the other clients, and eventually they start feeling like members of one big family.

Oliva agrees that management takes very good care of its patrons. Recently, the café launched its Bykes membership card. With the card, members never have to worry about the minimum consumable cover charge again. The limited Bykes membership policy lets patrons avail of the services and facilities of both Georgie and Dencio Studio.

In April clients may have a chance to win a 2006 Honda 3 sedan.

Oliva adds that the band is good a and the dance floor big. Bykes, she says, has a very good crowd and a pleasing ambiance that her family does not mind to the least if she spends a couple of days a week in the place.

Even if only to polish her dance movements, Santiago does not miss her regular days at Bykes. Keeping fit while having fun is, of course, a bonus.

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30 years of runaway success

METYLE VP for marketing promotions and events Joey Quimbo, Manila AVP and Consumer marketing manager for Milo Michelle Cato Almeida, and Milo brand champion Bobby Alcaraz

IT WAS A DAY OF SURPRISES AND the unexpected as the 30th National Milo Marathon in Manila came to a close, giving marathon enthusiasts, families and everyone involved plenty of reasons to celebrate yet another highly successful edition of the country's largest and most prestigious running competition.

Despite the rains brought by typhoon "Seniang," marathon enthusiasts and their families attended the event.

Nestlé Philippines chair and CEO Manolo Nandilichaw said the marathon remained the premier event for people who wanted to be runners of distinction. Over 104,000 took part in the 10 legs of this year's marathon, exceeding the 102,000 target.

Also at the finish were Nestlé's SVP and business executive manager for beverages Eugene David, marketing promotions and events vice president Joey Quimbo, AVP and consumer marketing manager for Milo Michelle Cato-Almeida, and sports events executive Pat Gee-ong.

Procter and Gamble Philippines president and CEO James Lafferty was with his wife Teresa and children Terence and John Patrick.

In the men's 42K division, Julius Severance from Bacolod grabbed first place. It was only the second time he completed a marathon.

Hernan Bantayog successfully defended his title in the women's division, his time of two hours, 49 minutes and 41 seconds setting a new record.

Both winners will compete in next year's Southeast Asian Games in Thailand.

Participants included Twin brothers Alexander and Alexander Encinas who have joined the event since its inception.

Crisp Lopez, an American missionary from North Carolina, ran the 10K race for the first time pushing the wheelchair of adopted son Anthi.

Highlight of the event was the showdance competition won by Batangas Elementary School in the elementary division and the University of Makati Pep Squad in the high school-college division.

Tolentino Memorial High School received the Biggest School Delegation Award.

THE 30TH National Milo Marathon champions Julius Severance and Jim an Bantayog with Nestlé SVP and business executive manager Eugene David (right), and Milo sports events executive Pat Gee-ong

PROCTER and Gamble Philippines president and CEO James Lafferty with son John Patrick, wife Teresa and daughter Kirsten

EUGENE David (right) with wife Sheila and son Kyle

Ikebana seminar

A FIVE-DAY COURSE ON VARIOUS Ikebana arrangement techniques will be conducted Jan. 24-28, 2:30 p.m. by Ikebana professor Soreiyon G. Hurtado. This will be held at Mrs's Plant Arts, King Louis Garden Center, Manila Seedling Bank (MSB), corner Edsa and Quezon Ave., Quezon City.

Topics are: Day 1—Ikebana, Moribana and Hoden styles, with hands-on; Day 2—Shibuwa style, all around or one-sided and L-shaped; Day 3—Wajuwa style, crescent-shaped and Regalia line, and flowers drop operation; Day 4—Seasonal, buffet or party centerpieces, and garland making; Day 5—Corsage-making, bridal bouquet and other wedding arrangements.

A minimal fee will be charged for flower vases, pruning scissors, floral foams, flowers, foliage, ribbons, wires, floral tapes, stocks, handouts and certificate. Persons who register at least five days in advance get a 10-percent discount. Register with Lina Hurtado or Rolando De la Cerna at Thirteen Blue or Edsa Gardens Resort at MSB. Call 8964593, 4352479 or 0917 5321512.

Call center gets 'connected'

GLOBE GUESTOWN WILL PROVIDE MISS-ssageConnect service to eMerchants Contact Centers, an inbound messaging call center in the Philippines and the United States.

GlobeSolutions is the corporate wireless business group of Globe Telecom and Innove Communications.

With MessageConnect, enterprises can send or broadcast up to date and reliable alerts to employees and clients via SMS (short message service) and/or MMS (multimedia messaging service).

Companies are able to reach quickly and directly their staff and customers, with messages sent in real time or on a set schedule. It even allows polls, status campaigns, and various business processes.

The service is expected to be effective to provide other added messaging services to its clients, Manolo said further. The company will use the service to conduct internal news and work attendance.

MessageConnect can be a tool for recruitment to update applicants on their interview and exam schedules, as well as their status. The service can also be used for emergency updates, including human resources information.

ENTERTAINMENT

Edito Bonoan Q. Velarde

Wind beneath her wings

ABS-CBN'S BIGGEST STARS—Judy Ann Santos, Sharon Cuneta, Kris Aquino, Regine Velasquez, Angel Locsin, Claudine Barretto, Iza Calzado, Gretchen Barretto, Ai-Ai delas Alas, Dawn Zulueta, Maricel Soriano, Vina Morales, Jolina Magdangal, Kaye Abad, Heart Evangelista, Bea Alonzo, Sarah Geronimo, Maja Salvador, Rufa Mae Quinto, Ruffa Gutierrez, Lani Mercado, Dina Bonnevie, Jodi Sta. Maria, Diana Zubiri, Cristine Reyes, Agot Isidro, Iya Villania, Toni Gonzaga, Shaina Magdayao, Solenn Heussaff, Jennylyn Mercado, Rhian Ramos, Isabel Oli, Melissa Ricks, Ina Raymundo, Jessy Mendiola, Kim Chiu, Gerald Anderson, Dingdong Dantes, Piolo Pascual, Richard Gutierrez, Robin Padilla, Jericho Rosales, Mark Anthony Fernandez, Diether Ocampo, Derek Ramsay, Marvin Agustin, Billy Crawford, Luis Manzano, Zanjoe Marudo, Enchong Dee, Jason Abalos, Matteo Guidicelli, Sam Milby, Erich Gonzales, Enrique Gil, Coco Martin, Jason Francisco, Jeffrey Quizon, Jeffrey Tam, Ogie Alcasid, Vhong Navarro, Edgar Mortiz, Eugene Domingo, Pokwang, Tuesday Vargas, Boy Abunda, Kuya Kim Atienso, Gabby Lopez, Charo Santos, Cory Vidanes) were there, but Megastar Sharon Cuneta's eyes were locals on no less handy she might also marked her big 4-1 at the Big Dome.

Highlights of the annual love fest were Regine's sweet duet of "Wind Beneath My Wings" with daughter KC Concepcion and the sentimental entrance of Robin Padilla and Mikel Pangilinan.

To cap the evening, Sharon serenaded her husband, Gov. Francis "Kiko" Pangilinan with his signature ballad, "Kiss." The birthday show will be aired tonight on ABS-CBN 2 as a two-hour special.

"KC Judy Ann grown like.

KC, Sharon and Frankie take center stage. Mini-Jessa snatches intensely from her seat in the audience.

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ELY BUENDIA signs author's copies in this file photo dated Dec. 14, 2005. Buendia underwent two heart surgeries in the past week.

A 'hurting' Angel takes time off from romance

By Nini Valera

"I'M STILL HURTING," admitted Angel Locsin, referring to her recent breakup with boyfriend Ouchie Sotto.

Angel, 21, told Inquirer Entertainment on Sunday that she and Ouch are still trying to iron their friendship. "We wanted us friends," she said. "We want to remain friends."

The actress, who is not opposite Robin Padilla in the new Okhti 7 action-adventure series, "Home Treasures," said she needed to focus on work in total.

"It's time off for personal reasons," she said, debunking rumors that Robin is taking Ouch's place.

"We're only friends," she insisted. "I apologize to Robin's family—he is being dragged into my personal life. As a friend, I have learned to watch from afar."

Angel, who could have more scenes in "Encantadia" will be working on new scenes and flight scenes in "Adam Terrazas." Robin is the same character and martial arts choreographer for the series.

Looks like their relationship will, in fact, remain on the pro-

A SURPRISE CU

Don't you dare die on us, Ely Buendia

CHEER FACTOR

By Francis Ochoa

WHENEVER you die, Ely Buendia, don't die on us.

Because a music icon who is as rare as they come, Eraserheads recent sub-ends an uncommon feeling called doing the bubbles. But are a top who's actually not to protest the citizenry. We are an honest politician. We are a film but movie deserving of an award. You are a critically-acclaimed Cardio kit.

I am a loyal Thomasian, you are the only reason I never got kicking studied in the University of the Philippines.

If you go, what does that leave us with? A handful of artistic bands under the radar and Orange and Lemons. We encourage the city for bartenders one plays, and point where the other's songs go on sit.

Always, always

As long as you're around, we will always have Rom-boy-bands E-Heads. The band. The Band.

Forget Pupil. You will always be Dreamboats to me, just as E-Heads can never be miscarriage-ed without you.

You played as a underground once with your own band, Pupil. Then by coincidence, your played two E-heads hits. I will have one of those performances on my self, please—about E-Heads tucked between rare sexy slips when's how much I

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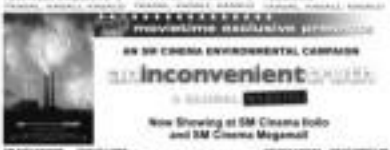

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SUNDAY, JANUARY 14, 2007

Don't you dare die on us, Ely Buendia

From page 61

dollar you'r.

Before you, there were Orpe Smith and Mike Hanopol. Smith has had the sense to stay alive—never mind if, physically, he's long been a vanished case, jail-dried remnant of his old self—long after you made the R'bands the next great Pinoy rock band after Juan dela Cruz. Hanopol lives on, too. Don't tell me you're planning to die ahead of them!

Ely, Ely, and Raim's going to make a reunion song for you. That should jolt your heart back to life.

Don't get me wrong. I would benefit greatly from your death.

Imagine how much my Rimbes economic genius, which I bought for P1,000, would be worth now due to last year signatures and the dedication, "Francis, rock and roll!" A friend of mine was willing to pay me 1 to P20,000—and you are still alive. And that doesn't include the simplest of you signing it. Or the unnatural affidavit of an incensus employee who overheard you saying it was

your first time to affix a signature on a ticket.

Do you hear me? Rm. Cort. Ely. Ely. The new definitive band in the local scene hasn't even got. Your presence helps keep music fans—even idiotic ones like me—genuinely waiting.

A heart attack at 36? That's as any be reason more to go. If you were found dead after 10 days on your ding of choice. I'd probably be more at peace with that. Or maybe if you blew your brainwaves like Kurt Cobain did.

Or if you were shot, the way John Lennon was, by a maniac—imagine if it was me! Imagine how much my game would sell then!

So, Ely, the Philippine music industry needs you. Some say you're past your musical prime, that after misjuggling to ride yourself lonesomeness with the help of Raymond M and the rest of R-bands from falling into three-chord pop compositions, there's

NOW 5:31

Don't you dare die on us, Ely Buendia

from page E2

ANGEL LOCSIN

A 'hurting' Angel . . .

from page E1

...cooking job in that wonderfully intimate kitchen of yours but underneath-the-smoke-and-mirrors-that-only-those-in-cloak-and-dagger-security-agencies-would appreciate.

I disagree.

I think you're very much like a scuba diver who, exhausted from catching some silver slumber waves, decided to plant his board in the sand and sit down to watch the sun. But you aren't just watching. Your eye is cast towards the horizon, eyeing that perfect wave, waiting.

So go through this and live longer, girl! When that perfect wave comes, we want to watch you go out there and catch it.

His also appears as a blog entry on thehuntressdiaries.wordpress.com.

...historical level, Robin himself asked that Angel be left alone.

"She is still recovering from heartache," said Robin, who described Angel to media as "fragile."

Angel refused to divulge the real reason for the breakup. "That's my private," she said. "I don't want to be saying nasty things about him."

She insisted that Oyo, who was being linked to actress Bing Loyzaga, had been fair to her.

She stressed that no third party was involved. "But not having enough time for your partners is enough reason," she said, admitting that this was often the case from her end.

Angel also said she wasn't shutting the door on Oyo for good. But, since the breakup, she had to exercise such.

"That's a sure way to get over a broken heart," she said. "Also, I surrounded myself with the right people, the good friends and family who gave me..."

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3 ENTENG KABISOTE 3
4 THE RETURN
5 KAMASUTRA 3
6 SCHOOL FOR SCOUNDRELS

The Perfect Gift All Year Round
A Pre-Paid Movie Pass to the Hottest Seats in town.

ONLY IN HOLLYWOOD
Ruben V. Nepales

LOS ANGELES—AT today's Chanel's dressing in Klondyke Golden Globe awards, all eyes will be on table No. 1 in the International Ballroom of the Beverly Hilton hotel.

Sitting at that prime table are Hollywood's reigning couple, beautiful people with no pretense Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie. How the much-admired pair got assigned the event's top spot and who else sits where and with whom are among the hottest unanswered questions around town. Getting seated here in your more than 1,000-guests, most of whom are famous, or notorious, or both. It's a dark matter and then some.

The studios, networks and film and TV companies with nominations naturally want more tables than they are allotted at Hollywood's party of the year. Unlike the Oscars, the Globes attendees sit at tables and are served a full dinner and plenty of wine and champagne. But with the limited space, the few seats leading to the Globe awards night become a issue, evoking tone-of-bargaining and counter-bargaining for more seats and tables.

This is one party where folks are only too happy to shell out $600 per ticket. Even the nominees' tickets are not complimentary—but their studios and networks gladly pay for them.

Our world begins unravel early when the nominations are announced, sometimes through the kids' dogs and does not end until the day of the Globes itself. We have a copy of the hotel's ballroom plan where we mark who sits where—it's studied and constantly revised until the big day.

TRAFFIC alert on Santa Mon

The studios and networks [illegible] time as to where their nominees or crowd these changes to m[illegible] table—several times! Here's how it

It's a daunting job...one that knowledge of the seating order even the dumb[illegible] rule—who sit[illegible] they have broken up or are lo[illegible] stars are just like you and me—[illegible] dumpish and mean to know in a

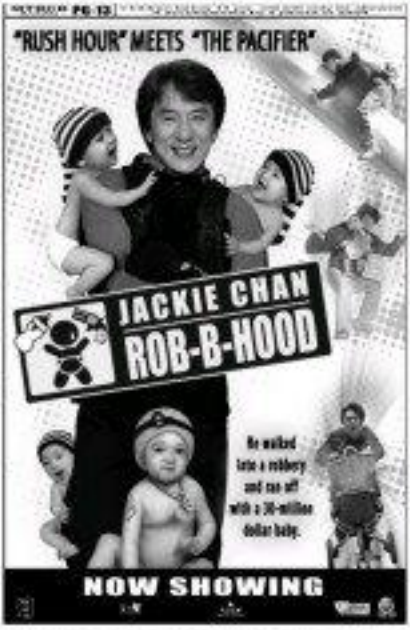
The International Ballroom b[illegible] hosts floor—classic in the sty[illegible] the film crowd in. TV folks and [illegible] the second level. The presenters [illegible] in front of the cameras), are not [illegible]

Taylor didn't and friendly level [illegible] table for 12 (which for them ar[illegible] of the ballroom layout. The ca[illegible] executives and personalities d[illegible] second way in the back—the [illegible] room.

Champagne toasts

In other gets in front level [illegible] friend...nominated for Best Supp[illegible] Angeles? He "Ridel" co-star[illegible] Barbara, who starred in [illegible] across race, and Alejandro [illegible] director who made it possible [illegible] ward.

Mike it is just to "telegenic" [illegible] and Mrs. Smith, Best Actor nom[illegible] Jackie Allen (Jamie Foxx) [illegible] his dad, and Will's mother, Cic[illegible] are "Stranger Than Fiction's" P[illegible]



get top table at Golden Globes

...ulevard, which leads to the awards venue.

Plus, who are seated with whom ... and where

"The Queen" star Helen Mirren, reigning double G, Considered the frontrunner for Best Actress, Mirren will wear a Donna Karan gown and Chopard jewelry by Her Highness' count are her husband, filmmaker Taylor Hackford (awkward-sounding "Bay"), "The Queen" director Stephen Frears and writer Peter Morgan).

Just a little more than a year ago, the Weinstein brothers, Harvey and Bob, ran Miramax. Now they have three semi table (!) and their own movie company, Weinstein Co. Joining them are stars from their movies. Dancer Salvegor ("Miss Potter"), director Emilio Estevez (his first Oscar candidate, "Bobby" will be introduced by his brother, Charlie Sheen), and Sienna Miller ("Factory Girl").

Table 4 has a solid chance of breaking into dances. Clint Eastwood, aside from being in the running for Best Director for "Flags of Our Fathers," finds himself in an unusual situation. His "Letters from Iwo Jima," a companion piece to "Flags," is a contender in the Best Foreign Language Film. The Golden Globes goes by a film's language. While "Letters" is an American production, it is completely in Japanese and is therefore nominated in the Best Foreign Film category.

Clint's party mates are his "Letters" star, Ken Watanabe and wife, actress Kaiko Mizuuchi, Steven Spielberg, who will present the Best Director trophy, and daughter Sasha Spielberg.

Pitch Perfumer Komedies, Eddie Murphy, director Mo'Nique and Anetta Perez, rodeo is "doing all the crazy things Dads in suburban dads 'Dreamgirls'"), DreamWorks Pictures will celebrate a party by itself. Also in the cast are Dreamworks co-founder David Geffen; the movie's director, Bill Condon, and Paramount big boss Brad Grey.

But the best table would be 10, which throws in Sheryl Stroup and Sasha Baron Cohen ("Borat" creator) together. We'd love to hear the exchange between them. How did they end up at the same table? Their bit monkey, "The Devil Wears Prada" and "Borat: Cultural Learnings ..." were both made by 20th Century Fox. And they just might end up winning the top acting awards in the comedy or musical category. Choosing them as either Sheryl's youngest daughter, Louise-Lourdes, and his best friend's, actress Isla Fisher ("The Wedding Crashers"). "Devil" has the perfect presenter: New York fashionista, Sarah Jessica Parker.

No table 13

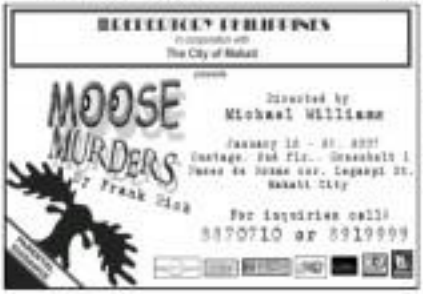
The world's richest and most powerful media mogul, Rupert Murdoch, is also of 13 because for is part of his global empire. "The Departed" (Triumph) and his with Melanie will also attend.

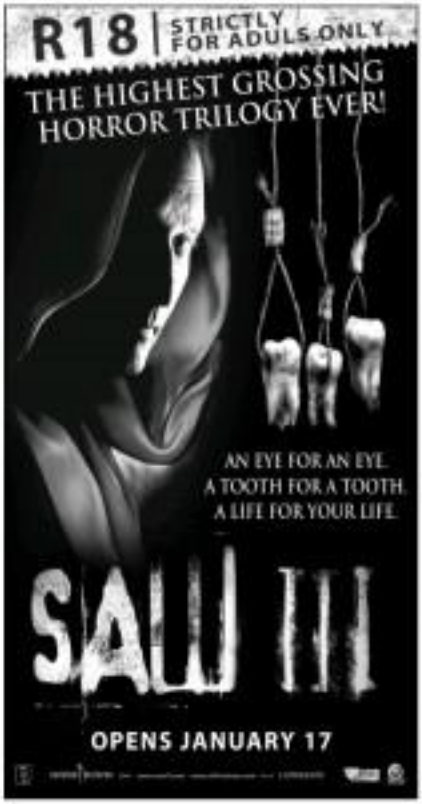
Emily Blunt, who plays Meryl's assistant in "The Devil ..." is at another table with her boyfriend, singer Michael Bublé.

Dreamers Jennie Bobsurgeon and Cameron Diaz, both newly single, provide the glamour at table 11, with Antony Hamilton, including Jodie Lanneau, whose "Cats" has a shot at being the Golden Globes' first Best Animated film. In this category with just three members, the other hers are "Happy Feet" and "Monster House."

Prince, who earned a nod in the Best Original Song race as composer of "Happy Feet" theme, is at table 12 with Kate Winslet and Jackie Earle Haley, both very good in "Little Children."

BRIAN D.





Justin & Cameron, and other break-ups

LOS ANGELES—JUSTIN TIMBERLAKE AND Cameron Diaz are officially broken up.

The duo—dating since 2000—confirmed their split Thursday in a joint statement, according to the Associated Press.

"We have ... ended our romantic relationship, and have done so mutually and as friends, with continued love and respect for one another," the pair reportedly said.

Last week, 25 Debbie nominee Ted Couldon recognized Timberlake was spotted at the Alpha Dog joint premiere party in the company of Scarlett Johansson, sufficient he drew a video night after Christmas.

The smoke-other outing of Johansson, 22, was cited by Us Weekly as the "final straw" for the Diaz-Timberlake vacation, with Diaz said to be jealous of the younger actress — and Timberlake said to be tired of Diaz's jealousy.

Johansson, recently uncoupled from Josh Hartnett.

Timberlake can now among the New Year's revelers who rang in 2007 at the Las stage he home of actress Kate Hudson, recently divorced from rocker Chris Robinson, and recently uncoupled from reputed beau Owen Wilson.

Diaz, meanwhile, is said by Us Weekly to "be concentrating" with Charlize Angela actor Drew Barrymore, recently uncoupled from Strokes drummer Fabrizio Moretti. *Reports from AP and US Weekly.*

Face of Aussie tourism

CANBERRA—ERIN BROCK, THE 8-YEAR-OLD daughter of late Australian "Crocodile Hunter" Steve Irwin, is to help market her country to the world, becoming a new face for Australian tourism, local media said on Friday.

Brock, currently in the United States to kick off the campaign, will be named a tourism ambassador by Australian Tourism Minister Fran Bailey, who will also travelled there to make the announcement.

Brock and her mother Terri are in the US also to help promote Australia as part of the "G'Day USA" campaign," Bailey told journalists. *Reuters*

ERIN BROCK

Steve Martin reminisces

NEW YORK—STEVE MARTIN WOULD SEE you to know more about his years as a wild and outrageous

The comedian, filmmaker, actor and author is seeking a memoir, "Born Standing Up," billed by publisher Scribner as "his first work of narrative nonfiction," a "riveting chronicle of his early years as a stand-up comedian and a fascinating portrait of success."

Scribner, an imprint of Simon & Schuster, is hoping to have the book out by early 2008. *AP*

How to score chicks

WELLINGTON, NEW ZEALAND—ACTOR JACK Black caused his "School of Rock" role into reality this week when he plucked two pennies into...

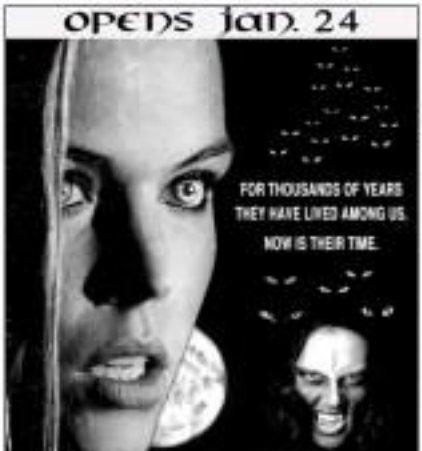
JACK Black, right, takes a break with musical child support act Black Tusc

Cloonys' current concern

WASHINGTON—PROVIDED PUNISHER FOOT ACE) recorded by actor George Clooney said his journalist father Nick while traveling to the border of the war-ravaged Darfur region of Sudan will be aired Monday.

At a premiere of the documentary "Hollywood" attended by members of Congress, the Clooney—with George speaking by video conference from California—discussed their concern that governments are not doing enough to stop what George called the first genocide of the 21st Century.

"I will remember forever how the people there were hoping their only chance this thread and there were so many ways for those to die and yet they were optimistic," George Clooney said the audience. *AP*



Rushes

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Gloria Steinem

GLORIA STEINEM

Mo Mol at prison

MEXICO CITY—ACTOR AND DIRECTOR MEL Gibson will come down to Mexico next week for a private viewing of his new movie "Apocalypto," about the ancient Mayans, but won't attend the movie's premiere in Mexico City, organizers said Thursday.

"Apocalypto" tells the story of the Mayan people—who built a civilization in Mexico, Guatemala and Honduras—and is in a Mayan language. It has broken box-office records for foreign-language films in its opening weekends in several countries, including Britain. It has also received a Golden Globe nomination for best foreign-language film. *AP*

Grammys, like "Idol"

LOS ANGELES—IS ANOTHER IRON OF IRON TV talent show "American Idol" has permanent pop cultures, the Grammys are running an Idol-like contest to choose a singer to perform Justin Timberlake on the Feb. 11 awards telecast.

The public will winnow down a list of aspiring singers in the weeks preceding the show and choose the winner of the "Sly Grammy Moment" contest during the live program. *Reuters*

Banned from "Hobbit"

LOS ANGELES—"LORD OF THE RINGS" director Peter Jackson has been barred from making "The Hobbit," in the latest twist in a bitter public feud between Hollywood studio New Line and the New Zealand filmmaker.

Bob Shaye, co-chairman of studio New Line, which oversaw production of Jackson's Oscar-winning adaptation of J.R.R. Tolkien's "Rings" trilogy, said Jackson's Wing Walt can that Jackson would "never" direct "The Hobbit."

Jackson is undecided in a legal wrangle with New Line over royalties from the "Rings" films, which have generated more than $3 billion in ticket sales since 2001. *AP*

Abba Sweep

LOS ANGELES—OSCAR-WINNING BOLD actor Ingrid Meryl Streep is set to star in a big-screen adaptation of the ABBA musical "Mamma Mia," movie industry newspapers said Thursday.

Streep will star as the rebellious single mother of the musical's central character, a bride-to-be who launches a search for her father, against a soundtrack of hits by the Swedish super group of the 1970s and 1980s.

"She was always at the top of our wish list," producer Judy Craymer was quoted as saying by movie daily Variety.

MERYL STREEP

Since it's London opening in 1999, "Mamma Mia" has grossed more than $1 billion around the world, making it one of the most successful musicals of all time. *AP*

Brad & Angelina get top table . . .

From page E1

Following superstition, there is no table 13, in order to seat 14, which is "unlucky" number. Style Stars have the spotlight all to themselves. At table 13 are four Supporting Actor contender Ben Affleck ("Hollywoodland") and his wife, actress Jennifer Garner; Rachel Weisz, a presenter by virtue of her film Supporting Actress win last year, and her fiancé, Darren Aronofsky.

Spread throughout the room, to the right and to the rear by, are members, presenters and guests. Cameron's ex, Justin Timberlake, is at a different table with fellow presenters Jennifer Lopez, Warren Stone and Penny Smirnoff, who in the ballroom are George Clooney, Tom Hanks, Drew Barrymore, Steve Carell, Hilary Swank, Hugh Grant, Jessa Garden, Jennifer Hudson, Salma Hayek, Terrence Howard, Naomi Watts, Seal and wife Heidi Klum, Sheryl Crow, Mary J. Blige, Bryan Adams and Ben Stiller.

Tomorrow Television ("Grey's Anatomy," "Ugly Betty," "Lost" and "Brothers & Sisters"), NBC Universal ("Heroes," "The Office," "Friday Night Lights" and "30 Rock") and ABC ("The Sopranos," "Desperate Housewives," "Studio 60," "Boston Legal," "The Ultimate" and "Dancing With the Stars") occupy the prime tables assigned to the executives from the small screen.

As for the actors paying Supporting attendance exactly in the hotel pecan the right after the show? We happily leave the charming celebrity hosts, which include the singer-author, Giffith Magazine and TV

Read the alternate at rmpedia.com/tips

FUN SNAPS FROM 2006

LAUGHTER IN THE NEWSROOM: Inquirer banners Rudy Esparza caught Jessica Soho, GMA-7 vice president for News, in a rare relaxed mood. Believe it or not, Soho knows how to channel giggle gas in relieving stress at work. Laughter, and then some. The same boss personally bought bibe, mang and bagoong, as basis for her Manam Esparza feast.

Movie-TV board scores 3 shows

A torrid kiss, a pair of undies & a game get some people in trouble

By Ricardo San Diego Jr.

THREE SHOWS STARTED 2007 ON THE wrong foot, so far as the Movie and Television Review and Classification Board (MTRCB) is concerned.

Two noontime programs, "Eheersonal" on ABS-CBN 2 and "Eat Bulaga!" (GMA 7), and prime-time gag show "Bitoy Entertainment" (GMA 7), got the goat of the movie-TV board for airing "offensive" scenes.

On Dec. 16, special board agents noted that a feature, later identified as Lito Bautista, a.k.a. Lautergutay, had been nearly flashed her underwear while performing a high kick.

On Jan. 6, two members of the audience were caught on-cam in a torrid kiss in the show's "Kiss Mana" segment.

In the same episode, a female contestant touched her breasts in the "Boom Panis" portion.

Action plan

The MTRCB ordered Cynthia Arches, "Eheersonal" production manager, to appear before the Hearing and Adjudication Committee on Jan. 16.

In a letter dated Jan. 11, Arches informed the board that "Eheersonal" had removed the "Kiss Mana" segment, "[would] re-assess[] and [is] putting in place new measures [to] be cautious in their language and actions [and] ensure that the show's dancers wear properly fitted and [clad] featured dance [steps] were executed ... in a manner that was not offensive."

Arches's letter also said Santos would be "conducted from performing in the segment 'Pito o Bayag' for four days beginning Jan. 11."

Arches told BOMBO Radio broadcast in a phone interview on Friday that show host Willie Revillame issued a public apology on Jan. 11, and that, in the same episode, Santos apologized.

"Eat Bulaga," dead silent of "Showtime," committed a similar violation, according to the board.

In a letter dated Jan. 8, board chair Ma. Consuelo Lagumbay reprimanded the show because of "complaints" concerning the Jan. 6 performance of the TV Dobol dancers whose "[p]ut-silmot were too sexy, he couldn't ..."

Despite the comment, Malou Choa-Fagar, executive in charge of production of "Eat Bulaga," vowed to work in the board "to formulate our level to avoid [repeating] the violation."

MTRCB also put to task GMA 7's Pinoy Big Brother Teen Clash 2010 edition for "indecent" exposure of its contestants.

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LEONARDO DiCAPRIO JENNIFER CONNELLY DJIMON HOUNSOU
BLOOD DIAMOND

Scorsese eyes Golden Globe

LOS ANGELES—POWERFUL DRAMA "Babel" and Martin Scorsese's bloody crime thriller "The Departed" are tipped to dominate this 64th Golden Globes here Monday as the race for movie awards heats up.

"Babel" and "The Departed" share 12 nominations between them heading into the star-studded extravaganza in Beverly Hills, which has increasingly come to be seen as a gauge of likely Oscars winners.

In the main categories, "The Departed," which is up against contributions against "Babel"s" seven, could deliver Scorsese his second Golden Globe Best Director prize in four years following his 2003 win for "Gangs of New York."

Five previous nods

Scorsese, who has never won an Oscar despite being nominated five times, is seen as a risk for the major directing prizes at the 2007 awards season, which culminates with the Academy Awards on February 25.

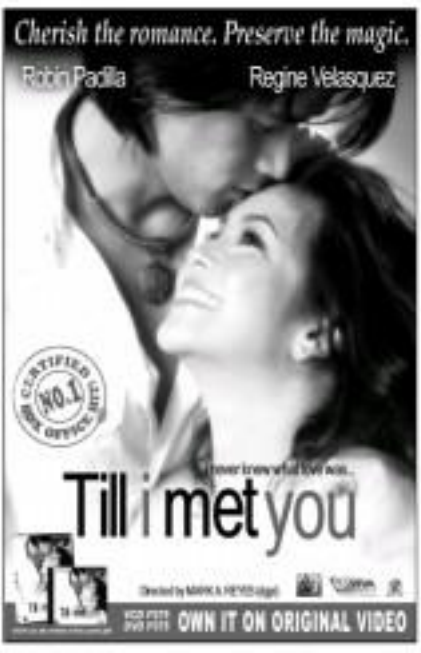
In the past three years, the Best Director winner at the Golden Globes has gone on to win the equivalent Oscar. But pundits are unconvinced whether "The Departed"—which stars Leonardo DiCaprio, Matt Damon and Jack Nicholson in a remake of the 2002 Hong Kong film "Infernal Affairs"—will emulate the anticipated success of its director.

"It's Scorsese's year—the question is, does he like go with him?," Tom O'Neil, a columnist with the Los Angeles Times' GoldenGlobe.com, told AFP. "The race for Best Picture really is wide open. It could be 'The Departed,' but it could be 'Babel.'"

Competition

In the Best Director category, Scorsese faces competition from Inarritu, Britain's Stephen Frears ("The Queen") and perennial favorite Clint Eastwood.

Eastwood has been double-nominated for his back-to-back World War Two dramas "Flags of our Fathers" and "Letters from Iwo Jima," which tell the story of the battle for Iwo Jima from the perspective of US and Japanese soldiers, AFP



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ASIAN TREASURES
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BUKAS NA!
JUMONG
Telebabad Jan 08
SUPER TWINS
Telebabad February
GMA
FIRST QUARTER
EXPLOSION
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MULA UMAGA HANGGANG GABI, ABANGAN ANG MGA NAGLALAKIHANG PROGRAMANG
INYONG SUSUBAYBAYAN AT PANANABIKANI
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Mga Kuwento ni Lola Basyang
LINGGOBINGO
Magic Kamison
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SABADOSTARPOWER
JANUARY
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